Andy Robertson | Dejan Lovren | Curtis Jones | Peter Krawietz | Bethany England | Virgil van Dijk

LIVERPOOL FC



FIRMINO



FROM KLOPP TO CARRA: WHY EVERYONE LOVES BOBBY

PLUS: ALL OF HIS GREAT GOALS IN PICTURES!



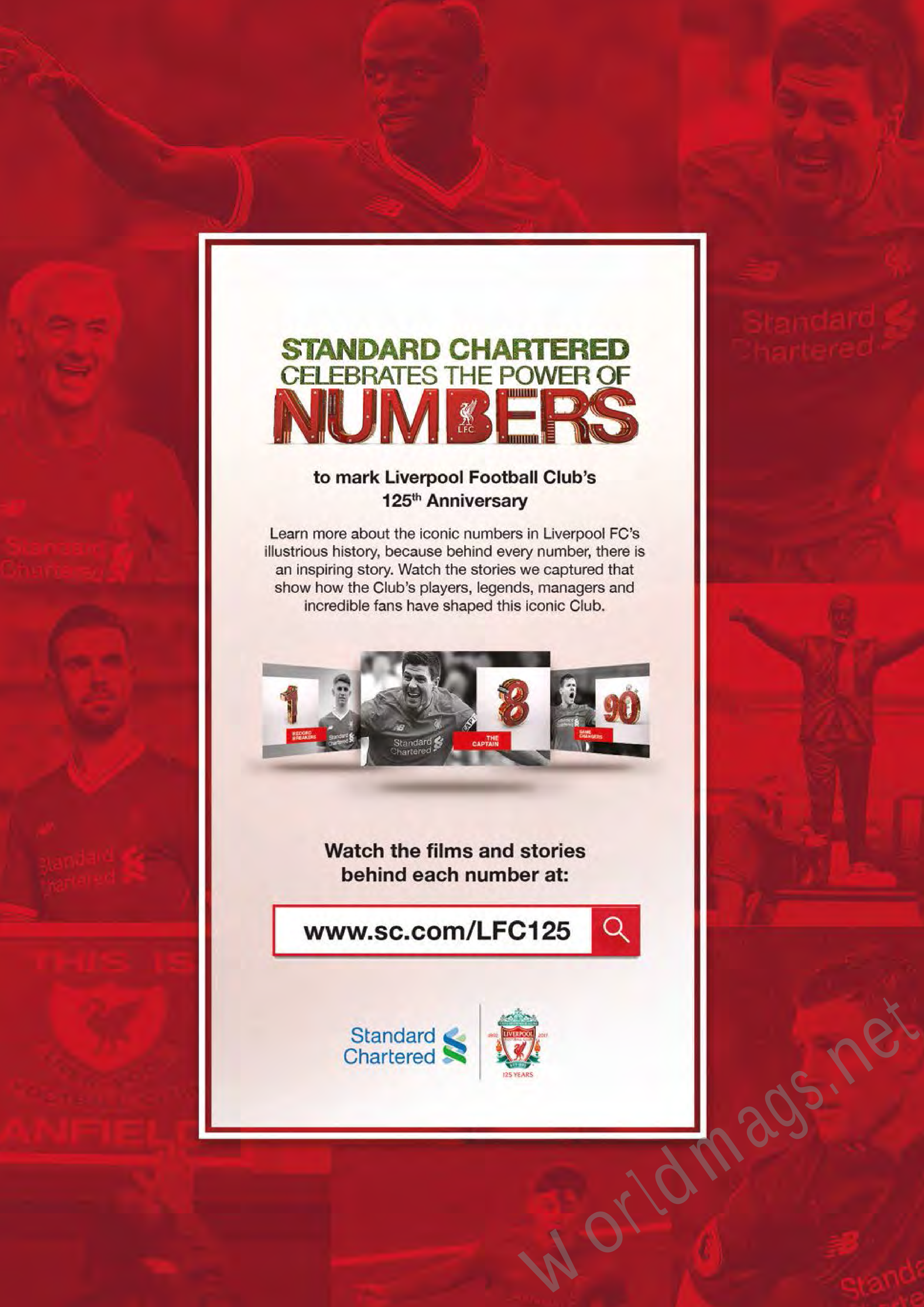
Tales from the Champions League starring Litmanen, Garcia, Bellamy, Torres and Gerrard!





Official Liverpool FC Monthly Magazine

liverpoolfc.com



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1
8
90
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Contents

ISSUE 67 MARCH 2018

Welcome to an issue packed with great goals, the return of the Champions League, and exclusive interviews and insight into the Mighty Reds. Enjoy!

LIVERPOOL

The lively front section exploring the wider LFC world and keeping fans up-to-date with what's happening at home and abroad

FOOTBALL

The stuff that happens on the pitch: exclusive interviews with current stars, the stats that matter plus blasts from the past

CLUB

Reaching out to communities at home and abroad, plus Anfield updates and the latest awesome official merchandise



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MO BETTER FINISH... It was a goal to grace any great football stadium, one Lionel Messi woiuld've been proud of, and here's the moment where Mohamed Salah, having weaved his way through a mesmerised Tottenham Hotspur defence, is about to lift the ball past goalkeeper Hugo Lloris at his



near-post. It took Salah's tally to a remarkable 28 goals in just 34 appearances for the Reds following his summer transfer from AS Roma – and all but one have come from open-play. Ex-Reds striker Robbie Fowler said: "He has been phenomenal – he looks like he's got goals in him every game."



ALEX IN THE FRAME... This brilliant series of grabs from a unique pitchside angle show Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain scoring and celebrating against Manchester City in the 4-3 thriller at Anfield. They come courtesy of LFCTV GO's regular feature *Inside Anfield*, which takes viewers behind the scenes



on matchday from a 'Tunnel Cam' perspective. You'll find all this and much at LFCTV GO, with access all areas 24 hours a day, seven days a week, full replays of every first-team match, exclusive manager and player interviews, live coverage and highlights of U23 & U18 games, and loads more!





THE LFC FOUNDATION LEGENDS CHARITY MATCH 2018

Saturday 24th March KO: 3pm
Anfield Stadium



Legends

vs



FC BAYERN
LEGENDS

On sale now! Adults £20 / Juniors £5 / Over 65 £15
Hospitality packages start from £70 per person

For ticket information please visit
www.liverpoolfc.com/tickets

All proceeds will be donated to the LFC Foundation, the official charity of Liverpool Football Club, which creates life changing opportunities for children and young people. (Registered charity no: 1096572)



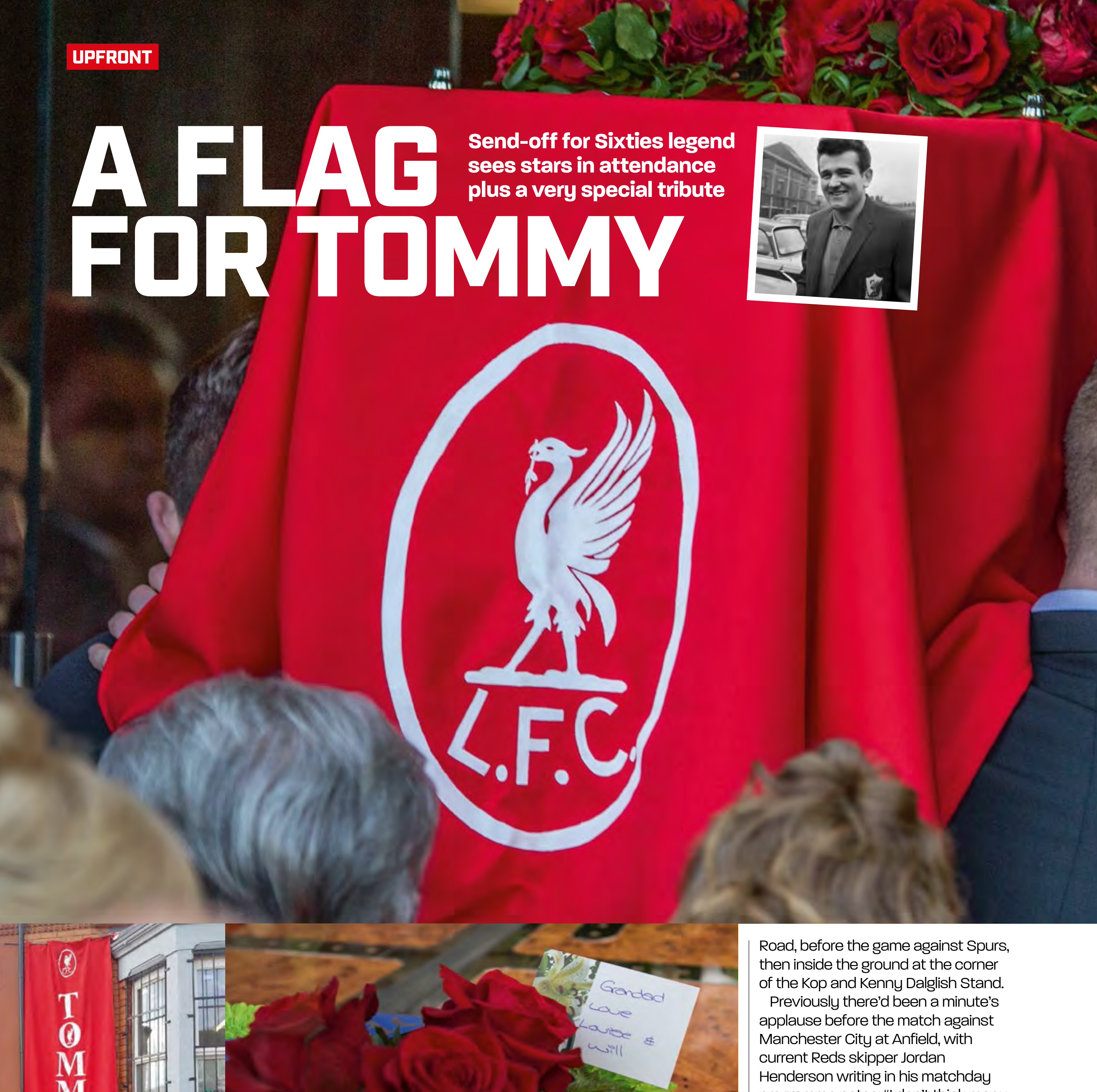
Jürgen Klopp took charge of LFC for the 136th time v Spurs on 4 Feb. How many goals had the Reds scored during his reign after that game? (a) 201 (b) 231 or (c) 271 **Answer on page 98**

A goalkeeping great, competition and the best LFC social-media posts

LIVERPOOL

A FLAG FOR TOMMY

Send-off for Sixties legend sees stars in attendance plus a very special tribute



Last month saw the funeral of former Reds goalkeeper Tommy Lawrence, and hundreds of mourners – among them many old Anfield team-mates – were there to pay their respects.

No Liverpool player was closer to the Spion Kop in its 1960s heyday than Tommy – quite literally. The Scottish-born goalkeeper, signed as an apprentice in 1955, stood in front of up to 28,000 Kopites every other Saturday as Bill Shankly's last line of defence, and is credited as English football's first sweeper-keeper after Shanks introduced the concept of playing a high defensive line.

He helped the Reds to win two top-flight titles, in 1964 and 1966, plus a first-ever FA Cup for the club in 1965.

At Tommy's service in Warrington the coffin was draped in a special flag created by Reds fan Peter Carney. The flag was subsequently displayed outside Homebaked, the community-owned bakery on Anfield's Oakfield Road, before the game against Spurs, then inside the ground at the corner of the Kop and Kenny Dalglish Stand.

Previously there'd been a minute's applause before the match against Manchester City at Anfield, with current Reds skipper Jordan Henderson writing in his matchday programme notes: "I don't think many of you who are reading these notes will need me to tell you what a great player Tommy was for Liverpool because his status as a club icon has long since been established, but what I can add is that Tommy – and all of the players of his era – are held in the highest esteem by everyone in the current squad.

"It is often said we're under pressure because of the achievements of past Liverpool teams and there might be some truth in this, but I prefer to look at it another way: what could be better than to be at a football club where Tommy and others set the highest standards for us to follow?

"I wasn't fortunate enough to know Tommy personally but I was shown a clip of him on YouTube recently



where he got stopped on the street by a news reporter and it told me all I needed to know about the type of person he was. If you haven't seen it, try to look it up because I don't think you will see many examples of an individual who has achieved so much being so humble and down-to-earth.

"Tommy will be in the thoughts of everyone at Liverpool Football Club today and we hope his family will take some solace from knowing how much he is respected."

Reds ON INSTAGRAM

The best LFC-related posts, featuring Kenny, Riise and Carra



@carolineweir95 King Kenny 👑



@23_carra Nice to see Fellaini & John Bailey at the party!



@andyrobertson94
Job done! Clean sheet and 3 points ✅ #YNWA



@jariiseofficial
Beautiful morning session here in Val Di Femme. Testing the course and skis for Sunday's Marcialonga 70km race! 😅 @teambnbank #madshus #bnbank #swix_sport #multiconsult



@sio_chamberlain That sky though! 😍😍😍



@offiiallallana
Back to say his farewells...a class act this little genius 👏🎩 ! @phil.coutinho

WIN THE WORLD CUP BOOK!

It's official – and we've got three copies up for grabs



Not long now till the summer's big tournament kicks off, probably with plenty of Liverpool stars in action, and to whet your appetite we've got three copies of *The Official History of the FIFA World Cup* to give away.

Ahead of the 2018 FIFA World Cup in Russia this year (14 June-15 July) Carlton Books have published a definitive history of the 20 tournaments that have taken place since 1930. In partnership with the FIFA World Football Museum, the book presents the stories behind some of the greatest moments in football history.

It's packed with stunning photography, recollections from key men at each tournament, as well as statistics, unique official documents and memorabilia from the FIFA World Football Museum.

FIFA president Gianni Infantino says: "By the time the 2018 FIFA World Cup kicks off in Russia, we will just have celebrated the 90th anniversary of what appeared to be a rather ordinary day for football: 28 May 1928. That was when the 29 member associations that composed FIFA at the time gathered in Amsterdam for the 18th FIFA Congress and decided that it would be a good idea to organise the maiden edition of the FIFA World Cup two years later.

"Little did they know that they were discreetly sowing the seeds of what would go on to evolve into the greatest show on Earth. We are the custodians of the FIFA World Cup's aura, and it is our duty to preserve the memories of each step that resulted in football's masterpiece as we know it. This is what this book is about."

Published by Carlton Books. Hardback RRP £30. **www.carltonbooks.co.uk.**





To be in with a chance of winning simply answer the following question and email your entry including contact details and postal address, with WORLD CUP BOOK in the subject line to liverpoolfcmag@trinitymirror.com.

WHO WAS THE ONLY LIVERPOOL PLAYER TO SCORE FOR ENGLAND AT THE LAST WORLD CUP FINALS, IN BRAZIL IN 2014?

(a) Steven Gerrard (b) Raheem Sterling (c) Daniel Sturridge

Closing date is Friday 6 March 2018. Winners will be notified by email and will receive one copy of both books. Normal T&C's apply.

The winners of the LFC 125 and Anfield Songbook were: Molly May Durno (Wirral); Nigel Browne (Carrickfergus); Tim Sansom (London); Gareth Drinkwater (Stonehouse); Juliette Witek (Solihull).

WHAT'S





RAFA AND THE GAFFER

Jürgen Klopp renews acquaintances with former Reds manager Rafael Benitez on Saturday 3 March when the Spaniard brings his Newcastle United side to town for a Premier League clash (kick-off 5.30pm).

The Spaniard has returned with the Magpies once before when his side earned a 2-2 draw with Liverpool in April 2016. Earlier this season the two teams drew 1-1 at St James' Park with Philippe Coutinho firing the Reds into the lead but Joselu levelling after a Joel Matip tackle bounced off his shin and into the net.

Liverpool had chances to win it after the break with Daniel Sturridge, Mohamed Salah and Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain unable to take good opportunities before Mo Diame went close for the Magpies in injury-time.

A week before the Newcastle game, the Reds host a West Ham side managed by Rafa's old Merseyside derby adversary, David Moyes, and will be aiming to complete a Premier League double after the 4-1 win at the London Stadium in November.

And three days after the Newcastle game (Tuesday 6 March) Anfield welcomes Portuguese giants FC Porto for the second leg of the UEFA Champions League round of 16 tie. Sergio Conceicao's side also favour a high press and a bold attacking approach, and look out for Cameroon striker Vincent Aboubakar who scored five times for them during the group stages.

WHAT'S ON:





LADIES DAYS

Scott Rogers' Liverpool Ladies aim to cement their place towards the top of the FA Women's Super League standings when they host Sunderland at the Select Security Stadium on Wednesday 21 February (7pm).

The corresponding game in the North East earlier in the season ended 4-1 to the Reds. Four days before that, they will look to book their place in the quarters of the SSE Women's FA Cup when they take on Chichester City.

Anniversaries and birthdays

It's 27 years since the 4-4 draw with Everton in the FA Cup on 20 February 1991 – a game forever remembered as Kenny Dalglish's last as LFC manager for 20 years, and a fifth-round replay of epic proportions.

The two hours of football produced eight goals – slightly ironic considering the goalless draw at Anfield that had preceded it. Four times Liverpool went ahead and four times Everton came back, eventually levelling in the 113th minute to take the tie to a third game.

To start with, Peter Beardsley's two goals for Liverpool were cancelled out by a brace from Toffees forward Graeme Sharp. Ian Rush restored the Reds' advantage only for Tony Cottee to make it all-square with a minute left.

John Barnes cut in from the left and curled home a beauty with his right-foot at the Gwladys Street end, before Cottee became the third player in the game to score twice – beating Bruce Grobbelaar in the second period of extra-time to make the final score 4-4.



Mike Hooper **54** on 10 Feb
Simon Mignolet **30** on 6 Mar
Phil Neal **67** on 20 Feb
Alec Lindsay **70** on 27 Feb
Joey Jones **63** on 4 March
Stephen Wright **38** on 8 Feb
Gabriel Paletta **32** on 15 Feb
Steve McManaman **46** on 11 Feb
Jonjo Shelvey **26** on 27 Feb
Nick Barmby **44** on 11 Feb
Kevin Keegan **67** on 14 Feb
Kenny Dalglish **67** on 4 Mar
Jari Litmanen **47** on 20 Feb
Rickie Lambert **36** on 16 Feb



26 years since Hungarian Istvan Kozma joined the Reds on 10 Feb 1992
17 years since Jari Litmanen scored his first Liverpool goal on 10 Feb 2001
119 years since Alex Raisbeck scored his first Liverpool goal on 11 Feb 1899
75 years since centre-half Laurie Hughes joined Liverpool on 19 Feb 1943
40 years since Graeme Souness scored his first LFC goal on 25 Feb 1978
92 years since Gordon Hodgson made his LFC debut on 27 Feb 1926
31 years since John Aldridge scored on his home debut on 28 Feb 1987

FIXTURES 2017/18

AUGUST

Sat 12	Watford (A)	3-3
Tue 15	Hoffenheim (A) UCL	2-1
Sat 19	**Crystal Palace** (H)	1-0
Wed 23	**Hoffenheim** (H) UCL	4-2
Sun 27	**Arsenal** (H)	4-0

SEPTEMBER

Sat 9	Manchester City (A)	0-5
Wed 13	**Sevilla** (H) UCL	2-2
Sat 16	**Burnley** (H)	1-1
Tue 19	Leicester City (A) CC3	0-2
Sat 23	Leicester City (A)	3-2
Tue 26	Spartak Moscow (A) UCL	1-1

OCTOBER

Sun 1	Newcastle United (A)	1-1
Sat 14	**Manchester United** (H)	0-0
Tue 17	Maribor (A) UCL	7-0
Sun 22	Tottenham Hotspur (A)	1-4
Sat 28	**Huddersfield Town** (H)	3-0

NOVEMBER

Wed 1	**Maribor** (H) UCL	3-0
Sat 4	West Ham United (A)	4-1
Sat 18	**Southampton** (H)	3-0
Tue 21	Sevilla (A) UCL	3-3
Sat 25	**Chelsea** (H)	1-1
Wed 29	Stoke City (A)	3-0

DECEMBER

Sat 2	Brighton (A)	5-1
Wed 6	**Spartak Moscow** (H) UCL	7-0
Sun 10	**Everton** (H)	1-1
Wed 13	**West Brom** (H)	0-0
Sun 17	AFC Bournemouth (A)	4-0
Fri 22	Arsenal (A)	2-2
Tue 26	**Swansea City** (H)	5-0
Sat 30	**Leicester City** (H)	2-1

JANUARY

Mon 1	Burnley (A)	1-0
Fri 5	**Everton** (H, FAC 3)	2-1
Sun 14	**Manchester City** (H)	4-3
Mon 22	Swansea City (A)	0-1
Sa 27/Su 28	**West Brom** (H, FAC 4)	2-3
Tue 30	Huddersfield Town (A)	3-0

FEBRUARY

Sun 4	**Tottenham** (H)	2-2
Sun 11	Southampton (A)	
Wed 14	Porto (A) UCL	
Sat 24	**West Ham United** (H)	

MARCH

Sat 3	**Newcastle United** (H)	
Tue 6	**FC Porto** (H) UCL	
Sat 10	Manchester United (A)	
Sat 17	**Watford** (H)	
Sat 31	Crystal Palace (A)	

APRIL

Tu 3/We 4	UCL quarter-final 1st leg	
Sat 7	Everton (A)	
Tu 10/We 11	UCL quarter-final 2nd leg	
Sat 14	**AFC Bournemouth** (H)	
Sat 21	West Brom (A)	
Tu 24/We 25	UCL semi-final 1st leg	
Sat 28	**Stoke City** (H)	

MAY

Tu 1/We 2	UCL semi-final 2nd leg	
Sat 5	Chelsea (A)	
Sun 13	**Brighton** (H)	
Sat 26	UCL final (Kiev)	

*UCL = UEFA Champions League





Thursday 19th April, Main Stand - Anfield

An evening with LFC Dutch Players

Join LFC players Virgil van Dijk and Gini Wijnaldum for an exclusive evening at Anfield. Listen to them talk about their experiences at LFC so far and their hopes for their future time at the Club.

Tickets are £150 and include:

- Evening with Virgil van Dijk and Gini Wijnaldum hosted by Peter McDowall
- Drinks reception
- Delicious 3-course meal prepared by LFC chefs
- Q & A with the two Dutch players
- Opportunity to win signed LFC memorabilia
- Photo opportunities with LFC silverware

To book call 0151 264 2222
or visit liverpoolfc.com/lfcevents


14
L.F.C.
125 YEARS
L.F.C



Bobby Firmino took his tally of goals for the season to 19 when he scored at Huddersfield on 30 Jan. What was his previous best tally for LFC? (a) 10 (b) 11 (c) 12 **Answer on page 98**

Robbo, Dejan and 'The Eye' talk football plus in-depth Reds analysis

FOOTBALL

CURTIS: ALL ABOUT THE FUTURE

Youngster turns pro with praise and support from his Under-18s coach


On target in the cup match at Anfield

Remember the name: Curtis Jones. The Liverpool Under-18s attacker has just signed his first professional contract with Liverpool Football Club.

Local lad Curtis, who's featured regularly for Steven Gerrard's side this season, penned the deal with the Reds in the week that he celebrated his 17th birthday. He'd previously joined the club as an under-nine player and has progressed through the ranks at the Academy, making his debut for the U18s last season.

The versatile forward featured in all six of UEFA Youth League group-stage games earlier this season and scored four goals. He was also on-target twice as the young Reds narrowly lost to Arsenal at Anfield in an epic FA Youth Cup fourth-round tie recently.

Coach Gerrard says of the contract news: "It's very special for Curtis and his family and thoroughly deserved. I'm really pleased and proud of Curtis this season, for his effort and commitment to the team cause, and he has added big numbers to his game. We will probably see Curtis more with the U23s now, and he has earned that. Let's hope he goes from strength to strength now and he sees this as the beginning."





VIRGIL: BEST YET TO COME

Time is not a common commodity in the modern game, but Reds centre-back Virgil van Dijk is prepared to bide his in pursuit of optimum performance in a red jersey.

He's told *The Guardian* newspaper: "I had been out for eight months – last January until September, really – and I didn't play at Premier League level. It's not easy to come back and especially when I have made such a big step with all the eyes on me, looking at every small detail. I am just focusing on the team and myself.

"The football we play, the pressing, the different options with players, it is totally different. So you need time to get used to everything, but I am working on it every day together with the team. I am talking with the manager and everyone who can help me out.

"It is a strength of mine to not really bother too much when people have their opinions. I know when I am doing it well and exactly when I am doing it wrong."





FROM DAY ONE THE FANS HAVE BEEN BEHIND ME AND HOPEFULLY I'M REPAYING THAT NOW

Andy Robertson on Anfield's press-pack, the Klopp collective, and the power of the Kop


26
1892
2017
L.F.C.
125 YEARS

Seventy-five minutes into Liverpool's Premier League clash against Manchester City at Anfield, with the hosts 4-1 up, Bernardo Silva received the ball on the right flank, near the halfway line.

Within a second he had Reds left-back Andy Robertson breathing down his neck. The Brazilian midfielder played a pass back to Kyle Walker. Robertson went after him.

Walker slipped the ball deeper to John Stones. Robertson went after him. Stones knocked it back to goalkeeper Ederson. Robertson went after him. Ederson knocked it to Nicolas Otamendi, who had moved to the wide left of the penalty box to create space. Robertson continued his diagonal charge forward and went after him too, challenging for the ball and winning possession.

The Argentine defender, however, theatrically went to the ground and as the ball rolled towards Roberto Firmino the whistle of Andre Marriner halted play, giving City a cheap free-kick. But inside Anfield the reception Robertson got for pressing five City players from one side of the pitch to the other was tumultuous.

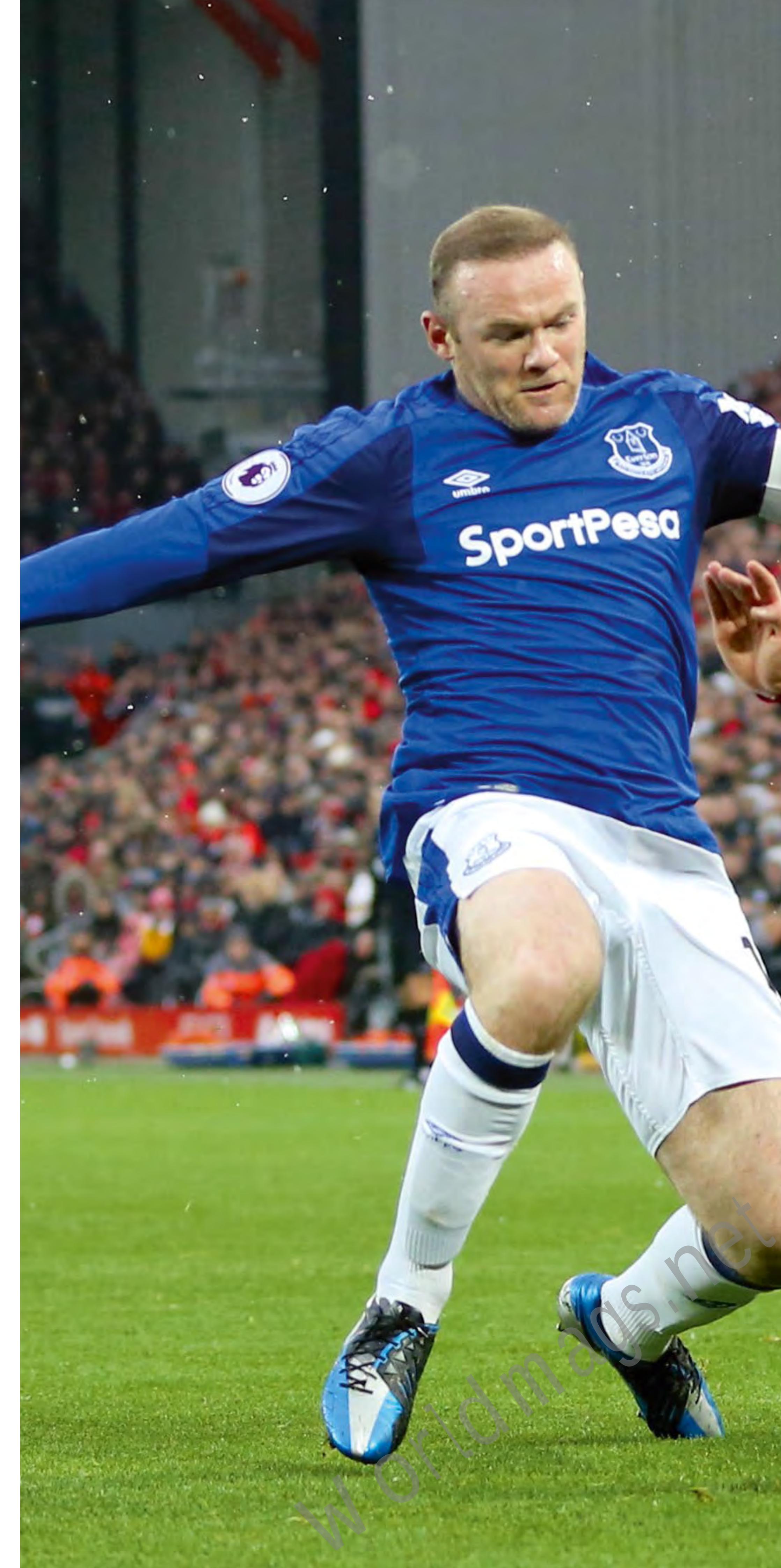
"If I hadn't sprinted 75 yards I might have moaned a wee bit more when the ref gave a free-kick!" laughs the 23-year-old Scot as we chat at Melwood in early February.

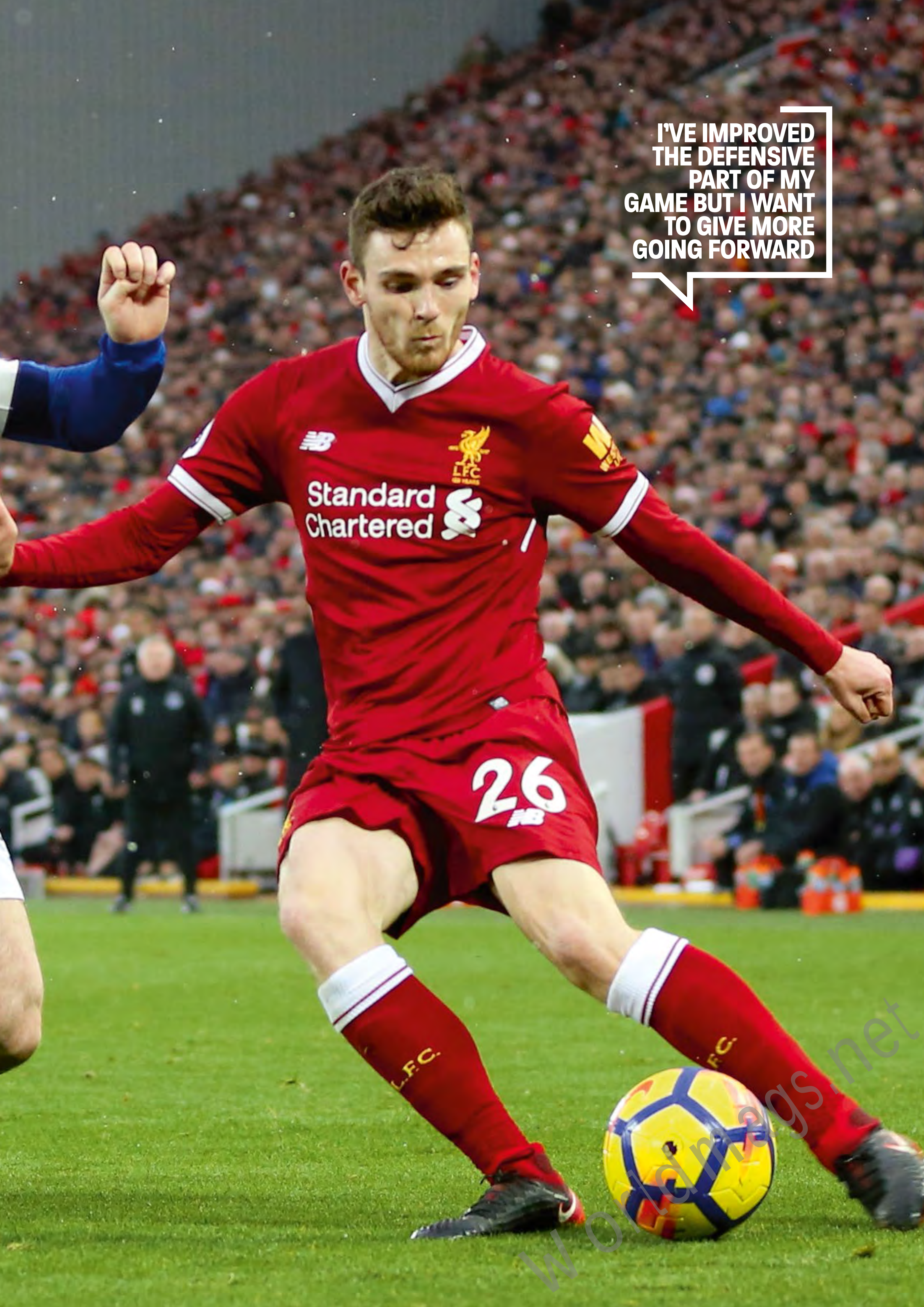
"On that occasion we had just gone 4-1 up against the league leaders and the crowd had our backs. Every time they played a pass it gave me a realistic sniff of getting the ball. I didn't necessarily want to go into the positions I ended up in, but with the crowd up for it I felt it was the right thing to do.

"I did have a quick look behind me and I knew Gini [Wijnaldum] was covering my position so I had the licence to go for it. It was a soft free-kick in the end when it could have been a good chance for Bobby, but it was just one of those moments when the adrenaline was flowing. I think it took me about five minutes to get my breath back, though!"

Robertson's incessant pressing exemplified the energy, desire and spirt that Jürgen Klopp wants to see from his players, but it was rare to see one man hound so may opponents down. Robertson explains that's because the Liverpool manager prefers his side to hunt in packs, not as lone wolves.

"You need to judge the moment when it comes to pressing. If you've given the ball away and the boy is five yards away, then it is the perfect moment to press and try to get it back. We want the ball back as quickly as we can because we can




I'VE IMPROVED THE DEFENSIVE PART OF MY GAME BUT I WANT TO GIVE MORE GOING FORWARD
Standard Chartered
26



Celebrating Mo's worldie against Tottenham at Anfield

cause problems when we've got the ball and that's what we always try to do. So we feel we know when it is time to press and when it is time to retreat back into our shape, because if it isn't the right moment you can't just go pressing in ones or twos as you'll get picked off. We work on it in training and we all know when it is right or wrong to press.

"There might be times when you go when you shouldn't or don't press when you should, but it's been drilled into us about when we should go as a pack and when not to."

I suggest to Robertson that, under Klopp, full-back must be the hardest-working job in the team as the Liverpool manager expects whoever is operating in those positions to bomb up and down the touchline, adding width in attack but without a dereliction of defensive duty.

He smiles at the assertion. "I think everyone would argue their position is the hardest! The way we play is we press as a team, defend as a team and attack as a team, so I think you have to work hard in every position.

"The wingers work hard, Bobby [Firmino] puts the work in up-top and the midfield three and defence are all hard-working. At full-back we are expected to get forward and create chances but also be solid in defence, so it is hard work but an enjoyable team to play in."

In the moments after his lung-busting press during the 4-3 win against City the likeable left-back's name was echoing around Anfield. "Ohhh Andy Andy!" chanted the Kop, "Andy Andy Andy Andy Robertson!" It was the first time, since his July 2017 arrival from Hull City, that Kopites had belted out his name and he was naturally thrilled to hear it.

"We won that game in those five or ten minutes when we put them under pressure. For the first time all season they were probably a wee bit flustered and didn't know how to react. So it was unbelievable when the crowd started singing my name as well.

"When you come to a new club the most important thing is settling in with your team-mates, the coaches and the staff, but for the fans to take to you always helps massively. From day one the Liverpool supporters have been positive, they've been behind me and they've been willing to give me a chance. Hopefully I'm repaying that now."

Having his name sung in a Premier League game watched live on TV by millions around the globe must be quite a confidence booster too?

"Usually fans only sing songs about people who score goals!" he laughs. "They used to sing my name now and again at my other clubs



OUR FANS ARE BRILLIANT AT GETTING BEHIND PLAYERS TO GIVE YOU AN EXTRA TEN PER CENT

but for the Kop to sing it was a really nice moment for me. I think hearing a player's name sung – whoever it is – or even just a club song can give the whole team confidence because it makes you feel like the crowd are right behind you.

"To be fair, our fans are brilliant at getting behind players and that can give you an extra five to ten per cent, especially in a game against a side like Man City. I really think they gave us a lift that day and that was probably the difference when we went 2-1 up. They were booing the City players every time they touched the ball and that helped us get them flustered and had a big impact on the mistakes they made."

Robertson is a native of Glasgow, a city similar to Liverpool with its working-class roots, dockyard heritage and all-consuming passion for football split between two clubs.

As a former match-going Celtic supporter he is well-aware of what it's like to follow a major football club from the stands, and he can see the similarities between the Celtic Park Bhoys and Liverpool's Anfielders when it comes to their support.

"Of course. I was a Celtic fan – I still am – and I went to all the games when I was a young kid with my family. Liverpool has a similar feel. It's a working-class city and there are hardcore fans who are behind the goal and support their team until the end. That's what you need as players.

"I felt being part of the Celtic fans we helped the players at times and now I've got similar fans behind me at Anfield. It helps massively. Liverpool fans are well renowned for being top-quality and I'm happy to be in a side with that support behind me."

His name was sung again by the travelling Kop inside the John Smith's Stadium during the 3-0 win at Huddersfield Town. It was a game in which Andy appeared to be operating more as an attacking wing-back than a traditional left-back with his starting position, when Loris Karius had the ball, further up the field than where Joe Gomez was operating on the right.

It was a tactical ploy designed by Klopp in an attempt to overcome a spot of bus-parking by his good pal and Terriers boss David Wagner with the 3-0 final scoreline suggesting it paid dividends.

"We worked on it for that game. We kind of knew how Huddersfield were going to set up and we know that Joe is more naturally a centre-back who is playing at right-back.

"So the manager thought that if I started a wee bit higher and the others were effectively a three it would maybe help us get further up the pitch. That meant Mo [Salah] could hold out for width and that Sadio [Mane] could come inside more to play closer to Bobby.

"Different games require different things and that was something we looked at that paid off at Huddersfield, but Joe has shown in a number of games how good he is at going forward. When that happened I would provide the defensive protection on the other side of the pitch so he also had some licence to go forward."

The flip-side of a higher starting position is there is more ground to cover to get back into the defensive line if possession is lost, but Robertson says it wasn't just his responsibility to secure that left-hand side in such situations.

"My starting position was higher when Loris had the ball but as the build-up started I needed to be in a good position to also offer protection. Milly [James Milner] played on my side that night and he was always in the number six position so both of us felt we would get back there if play broke down.

"There were only one or two occasions during the game when that happened and we were back in position quite quickly, so it wasn't as if I played as a left winger and could just do what I want. I think we got the balance right there."

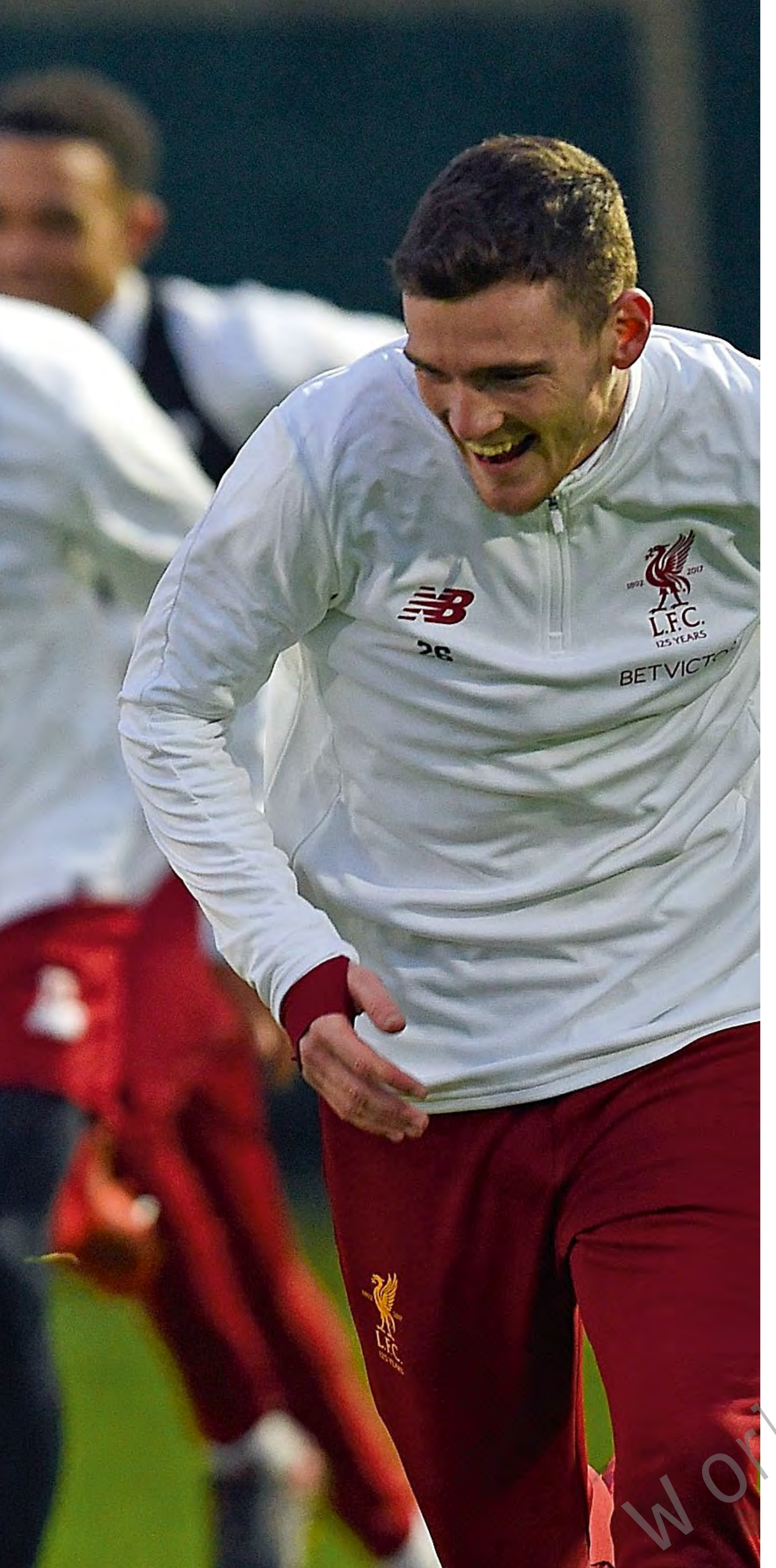
Not all full-backs can naturally adapt when asked to play a bit further forward. Players from Liverpool's past such as Steve Nicol and John Arne Riise were masters of it; others struggled. But Robertson's all-action style and ability to contribute to the attacking side has perhaps come from the fact that he wasn't always a left-back.

He began at Celtic but it was only when he moved on to Queens Park that left-back became a specialist position for him in which he subsequently excelled with Dundee United and Hull City.

"I've developed my style as I've gone along at different clubs. If you speak to any player then, when they were younger, they probably didn't have a set position. I played centre-mid at Celtic, I played left-mid and I played left-back. It was all about learning different positions and I didn't quite manage to cement one.

"I was a utility man, as such, and got moved a lot. Even when I went to Queens Park I was still playing left-





mid but felt at that time left-back was better for me because I feel I'm better coming forward from deep than I am from high up the pitch.

"That was a discussion we had there and luckily it worked in my favour as I managed to get a run of games at left-back. Since then, probably from under-17s onwards, I've not really looked back and tried to learn the position as best I can."

Has seven months of working under Reds boss Klopp and his coaching staff brought him on again?

"One hundred per cent. There have been times when he has spoken to me about certain situations in games or in training and that's what I need. I'm only 23 and I feel as though I've still got so much improving to do. I couldn't be training with a better squad, or being coached by a better manager, to do that.

"His style of play is very different to every other style I've played under before, and it did take me time to get

I COULDN'T BE TRAINING WITH A BETTER SQUAD OR BEING COACHED BY A BETTER MANAGER

used to. But there is no better way of getting used to it than by playing games and dealing with real-time situations. I feel as if I've improved the defensive part of my game but I still want to give more going forward. There's a lot more I can give and hopefully if I can keep doing those two sides of my game positively I'll keep on getting a run of games.

"I've learned a lot in the last six or seven months. I feel as if I'm improving every day and I'm obviously glad that I'm getting more game-time. The step-up from Hull to Liverpool is massive and as I've previously said we get 60-70 per cent possession here whereas at Hull I wasn't used to that. We were always the ones on the other end of it and weren't getting forward as much.

"I'd maybe get forward two or three times in a game for Hull whereas now it's seven or eight times, so the mindset is different here. It's something I've had to get used to, but I feel as if I'm getting there."

Half the Manchester City team certainly knew he was getting there at Anfield, and if Andy Robertson continues to play like that his name will be ringing around the Kop for many years to come.

Words: Chris McLoughlin



FIRM

Bobby's goals so far this season – plus all the others since he's been a Red



INO ON FIRE



WATFORD (A) PREMIER LEAGUE
SATURDAY 12 AUGUST 2017

Bobby steps up to take on penalty duties after Mo Salah is brought down by Watford keeper Heurelho Gomes in the opening-day fixture at Vicarage Road. He makes the score 2-2 by sending his fellow Brazilian the wrong way with a low strike to the goalie's right.

HOFFENHEIM (H) CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
WEDNESDAY 23 AUGUST 2017

Firmino makes it 4-1 on the night and 6-2 on aggregate to all but seal passage into the group stages of the Champions League. Jordan Henderson presses Hoffenheim centre-back Kevin Vogt high up the pitch and wins possession before squaring to Bobby, who rolls into the net at the Kop end.

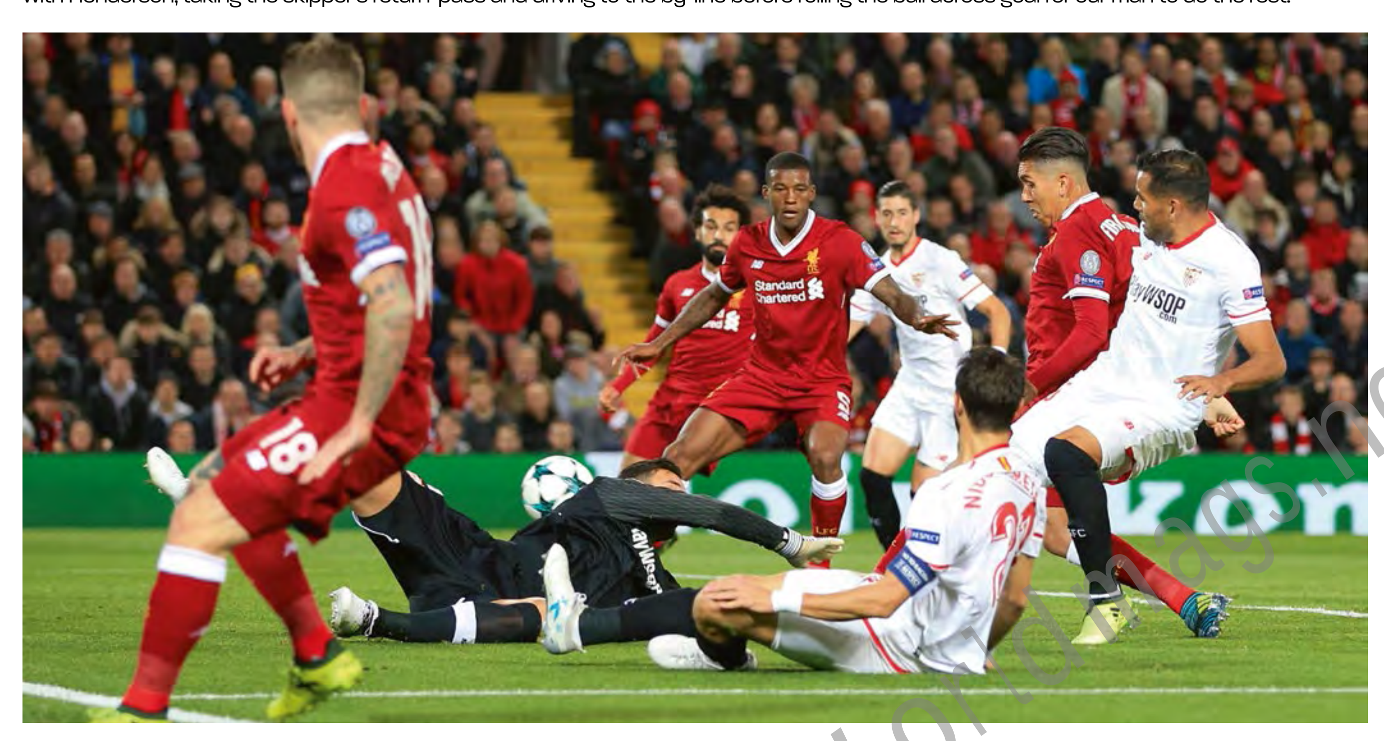




ARSENAL (H) PREMIER LEAGUE SUNDAY 27 AUGUST 2017

The no9 puts Liverpool on their way to an emphatic 4-0 home win over the Gunners with the opener on this Sunday afternoon. Reds defender Joe Gomez makes a fine interception on the right flank and as the ball is worked to the 18-yard line, he swings over an inviting left-footed cross. Bobby ghosts in between Arsenal centre-backs Laurent Koscielny and Rob Holding to glance a header beyond keeper Petr Cech.

SEVILLA (H) CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WEDNESDAY 13 SEPTEMBER 2017
After conceding an early goal, Liverpool draw level with Firmino putting the finishing touch to an incisive move. Moreno plays a quick one-two with Henderson, taking the skipper's return-pass and driving to the by-line before rolling the ball across goal for our man to do the rest.



MARIBOR (A) CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2017
He opens the scoring in what turned out to be a rout against the Slovenian champions in the Champions League group stage. Fine pressing from Mo Salah forces an error in the Maribor defence and after skipping away from centre-back Marko Suler, the Egyptian ace rolls the ball across the six-yard box for the incoming Firmino to do the rest.

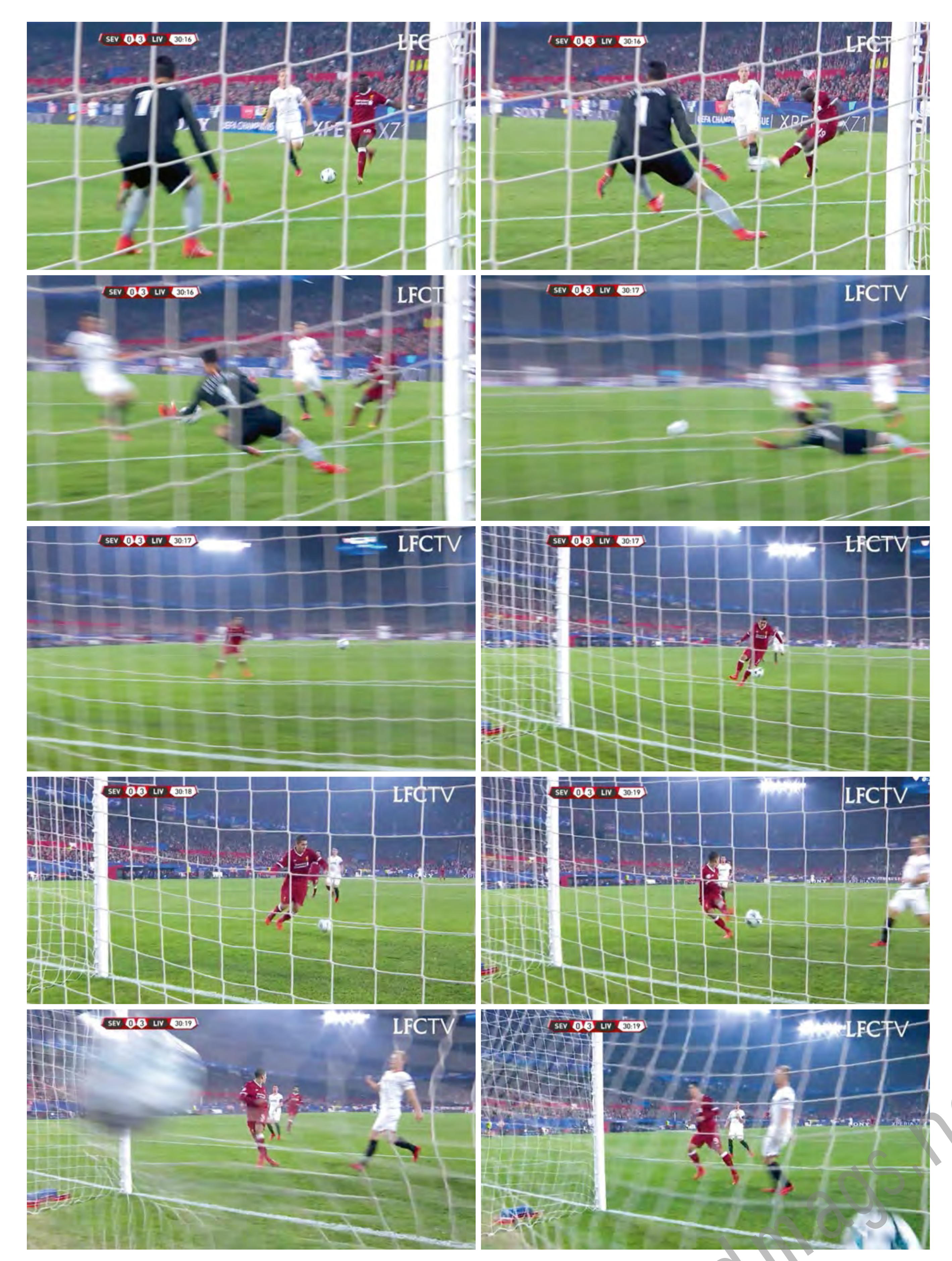
MARIBOR (A) CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TUESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2017
A well-worked Liverpool set-play enables Bobby to score his second of the game against Maribor and the Reds' fifth of the night. Coutinho curls in a free-kick from the left and Firmino gets in front of his man to glance home a header at the near-post.



SEVILLA (A) CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2017
Another goal from a corner as Bobby puts Liverpool in front inside 90 seconds at the Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan. A Coutinho corner from the right is flicked on by Wijnaldum at the near-post and Firmino races in at the far stick to steer home with a left-footed shot.

HUDDERSFIELD (H) PREMIER LEAGUE SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER 2017
Doubles the Reds' advantage with a near-post header from James Milner's corner as Liverpool see off the newly-promoted Terriers. He evades the attentions of midfielder Aaron Mooy to nod in Milner's in-swinger from inside the six-yard box in front of the Kop.





SEVILLA (A) CHAMPIONS LEAGUE TUESDAY 21 NOVEMBER 2017
Bobby makes it 3-0 in the Andalusian capital after half-an-hour with his cheeky 'no-look' finish. Team-mate Sadio Mane's searing pace unlocks the Sevilla backline and when his shot is parried by goalkeeper Sergio Rico, the loose ball falls into the path of Firmino who takes a touch to control the ball inside the six-yard box before looking back upfield as he strikes a left-footed finish into the empty net.





BRIGHTON (A) PREMIER LEAGUE
SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2017
Reaches double-figures by capping off a fantastic team counter-attack to put the Reds two goals to the good at the Amex Stadium. He is involved earlier in the build-up as his flick sends Mo Salah racing away to find Philippe Coutinho on the left just inside the penalty-area. Coutinho's cross picks out his fellow Brazilian who hits a first-time right-footed effort past keeper Mathew Ryan.

BRIGHTON (A) PREMIER LEAGUE
SATURDAY 2 DECEMBER 2017
Just 14 seconds after Simon Mignolet produces a fine save to deny Glenn Murray, the Reds have the ball in the Brighton net following another blistering counter-attack involving Coutinho, Salah and Firmino. After Salah tees him up in front of goal, Bobby steers home his second of the game with a precise right-footed finish from 12 yards.



SPARTAK MOSCOW (H) CHAMPIONS LEAGUE WEDNESDAY 6 DECEMBER 2017
Bobby makes it 3-0 to Liverpool in just the 19th-minute of this vital Champions League group game at Anfield. Sadio Mane's cross is only half-cleared by a Spartak defender and it's Firmino who reacts quickly to stab home a right-footed finish from inside the penalty-area.

BOURNEMOUTH (A) PREMIER LEAGUE SATURDAY 17 DECEMBER 2017

After good work by Andy Robertson on the left flank, Firmino latches on to a Coutinho cross to score with a diving header from six yards. His effort makes it 4-0 to the Reds and completes a comprehensive victory at the Vitality Stadium.

ARSENAL (A) PREMIER LEAGUE FRIDAY 22 DECEMBER 2017

Equalises to make it 3-3 in a rip-roaring game at The Emirates. Picked out on the edge of the area by a pinpoint pass from Emre Can, his left-footed strike has too much power for Petr Cech who can only push the ball up and into the net.





SWANSEA CITY (H) PREMIER LEAGUE TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2017

Doubles Liverpool's lead against the Swans at Anfield as he pulls away from centre-back Federico Fernandez to volley home at the back-post in front of the Kop after being picked out by Coutinho's inviting free-kick. Superb technique, and once again made to look easy.


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SWANSEA CITY (H) PREMIER LEAGUE TUESDAY 26 DECEMBER 2017
Another close-range strike to make it 4-0 with his second of the game against the Welsh side. Swansea squander possession to the wrong man – Mo Salah – deep in their own territory and he makes good ground before squaring for Firmino to tap home from six yards.

MANCHESTER CITY (H) PREMIER LEAGUE SUNDAY 14 JANUARY 2018
Gini Wijnaldum shows great strength to win the ball and releases Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain. The midfielder slides a pass into Firmino who outmuscles defender John Stones before taking a touch and lifting the ball beyond City keeper Ederson and in off the far-post.



HUDDERSFIELD AWAY (A) PREMIER LEAGUE
TUESDAY 30 JANUARY 2018

Half-time is approaching and Liverpool are dominating the game at the John Smith's Stadium, but while it's still only one-nil, nothing is settled. Then up pops Bobby on the left wing, cutting inside, drawing the keeper and sliding home from a seemingly impossible angle!

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (H) FA CUP
SATURDAY 27 JANUARY 2018

Scores his first FA Cup goal with another glorious chip, this time from distance after Mo Salah had got in behind Baggies centre-back Jonny Evans and the Egyptian's strike had been saved by goalie Ben Foster before running loose to Bobby who did the rest.

Firmino: goals and games

Year	Club	Lge goals/games	All comps goals/games
2009	Figueirense	0/2	0/2
2010	Figueirense	8/36	12/51
2010/11	Hoffenheim	3/11	3/11
2011/12	Hoffenheim	7/30	7/33
2012/13	Hoffenheim	5/33	7/36
2013/14	Hoffenheim	16/33	22/37
2014/15	Hoffenheim	7/33	10/36
2015/16	Liverpool	10/31	11/49
2016/17	Liverpool	11/35	12/41
2017/18*	Liverpool	11/24	19/34

*Correct to 30 January 2018


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BETVICTOR
9

BOBBY TALK

"He's very important. We have a lot of quality in the team, of course, but still sometimes [at a high level], sometimes [low], sometimes [in the middle] – not really consistent all the time in our offensive play. But Roberto delivers, delivers and delivers. He doesn't score all the time, he is not always brilliant, but if he is not brilliant then he works like a horse. It's very important that you have this kind of stability there. Of course there will be games when he cannot play, that's absolutely okay, but means most of the time I think: we should try it again with Roberto."

Jürgen Klopp after Firmino's performance in the 3-0 win at Huddersfield, January 2018

"With Firmino we're talking about one of the most underrated players in the Premier League. He's highly-rated at Liverpool and also by Jürgen Klopp but outside Liverpool he's not mentioned when you talk about the top strikers. He's got 17 goals this season – I would think he's the first name on the team-sheet.

BOBBY'S GOALS 2016/17



Burton Albion (A) League Cup 23 Aug 2016

Leicester City (H) Premier League 10 Sept 2016

Swansea City (A) Premier League 1 Oct 2016

Watford (H) Premier League 6 Nov 2016

Swansea City (H) Premier League 21 Jan 2017

Arsenal (H) Premier League 4 Mar 2017



Leicester City (H) Premier League 10 Sept 2016



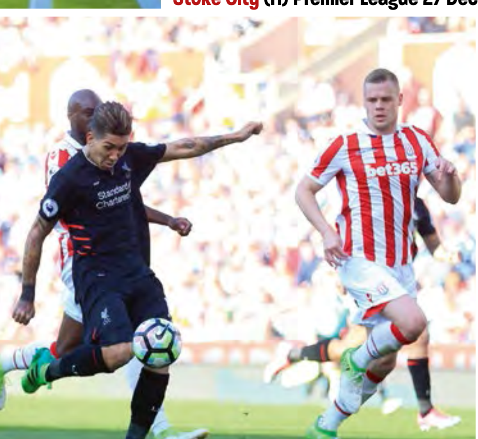
Crystal Palace (A) Premier League 29 Oct 2016



Stoke City (H) Premier League 27 Dec 2016



Swansea City (H) Premier League 21 Jan 2017


Stoke City (A) Premier League 8 Apr 2017


West Bromwich Albion (A) Premier League 16 Apr 2017

Yes, you've got Salah and Mane, but Firmino's hold-up play and work off the ball makes him one of the best attacking players in the Premier League. Now he's adding goals to that too. He's a top, top player."

Jamie Carragher, January 2018

"Roberto scored twice, but what he did around these goals is what excites me the most, to be honest. In all the counter-attacks, pretty much, he won the ball. By being here, by being a little annoying, a little foot, a little toe, that for us is important. Then the ball is go. With all the rest around him, you need to get used to it."

Jürgen Klopp after Firmino's brace in the 5-1 win at Brighton, December 2017.

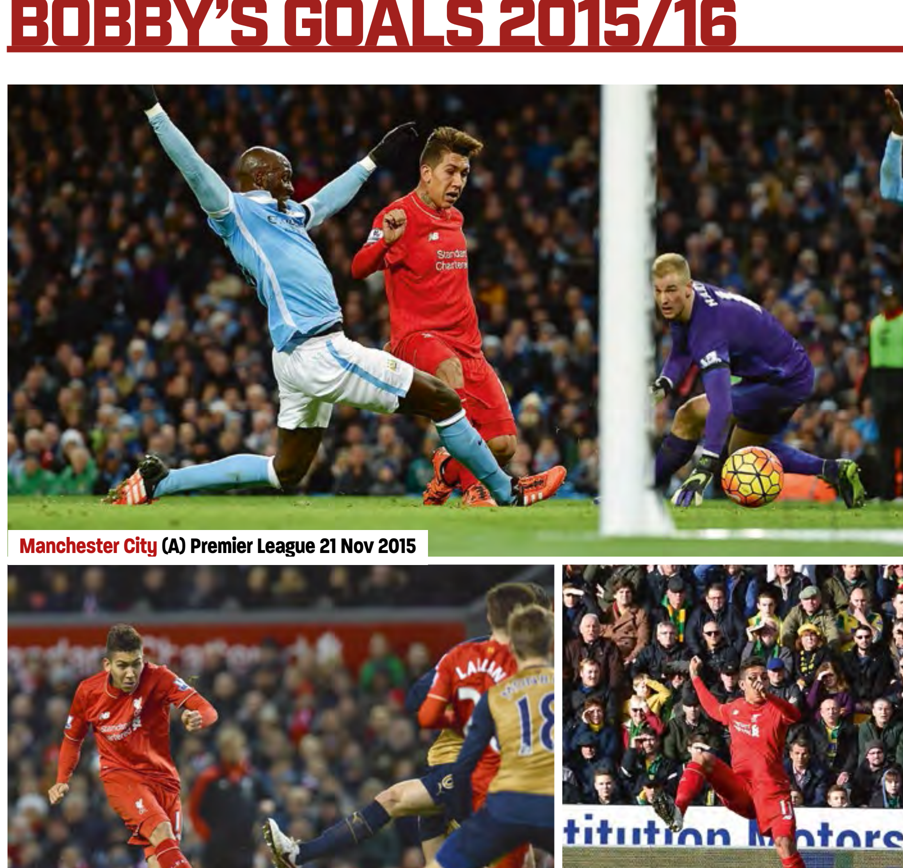
"Roberto is a typical example for our philosophy. We found him in Brazil as a youngster when not many people knew about him. Firmino put a lot of extra work in, the coaches developed him into a top player and it was normal for us that he moved to a huge club like Liverpool. Firmino is not a typical Brazilian player: he took on a lot of the German mentality and I believe that his way of playing football fits perfectly with Jürgen Klopp's style. I believe

Roberto has already proved that he is a top player, but trust me, he will get even better."
Hoffenheim scout Lutz Pfannenstiel, August 2017

"When I knew I was coming here to Liverpool Football Club, I knew that I had a good player and I was looking forward to working with Firmino very much. He is happy so he doesn't care about getting more credit or recognition. Of course he is very important because he can play all three positions in our system. And in our system I'm sure he could play as the no8 too. He is different but he can play there. He is a very important player, a connecting player, a finisher, a fighter, a defender, the first defender – that is important. A lot of things he is good at are very important for us. He's still a good listener and a good trainer. He likes to train, he likes to learn, so that is excellent, a nice package."
Jürgen Klopp, December 2016

"We have so much quality in the front positions, but for me it is good to train against players such as Firmino and Mane every day - it helps my level of defending."
Ragnar Klavan, October 2016

BOBBY'S GOALS 2015/16



Manchester City (A) Premier League 21 Nov 2015

Arsenal (H) Premier League 31 Jan 2016

Norwich City (A) Premier League 23 Jan 2016





Sunderland (H) Premier League 6 Feb 2016



Manchester City (H) Premier League 2 Mar 2016



Manchester United (H) Europa League 10 Mar 2016



Bournemouth (A) Premier League 17 Apr 2016



Arsenal (H) Premier League 31 Jan 2016





Norwich City (A) Premier League 23 Jan 2016





Crystal Palace (A) Premier League 6 Mar 2016





Watford (H) Premier League 8 May 2016

"The flexibility of the player is important. Roberto Firmino has got outstanding talent, absolutely wonderful touch, a great appreciation of the game. He can play on the sides, through the middle or in-behind. He's accustomed to European football. He is a talent who wants to score."

Former Reds boss Brendan Rodgers, July 2015

"When I heard we were signing him, I thought it was a good signing for us because I have been following him for a while. I know him from watching the national team. He has got a good record for Brazil – four or five goals in nine games, which is great. He has only started to play for Brazil in the last six months, but he has potential and we have seen in the national team that he can perform."

Lucas, July 2015

"He has adapted to life in Germany well, which suggests he can settle quickly on Merseyside. Is it a gamble? Liverpool have only once paid more money for a player. But the hope this time is the signing is remembered for all the right reasons."

BBC Sport journalist Ben Smith, June 2015



RAINY DAYS AND SUNSHINE

Defender Dejan Lovren's bright forecast for club and country on the European and world stage



Reds centre-back Dejan Lovren is hoping 2018 will be a big year for both club and country.

The 28-year-old has plenty of work to take care of with Liverpool before the summer's World Cup finals kick off, but he believes Croatia's considerable talent pool can cause an upset or two in Russia when the finals come around in June.

Having finished as runners-up to Iceland in their qualification group, Croatia overcame a tough play-off against Greece in November with Lovren picking up his 36th and 37th caps for his country.

The first leg saw Croatia secure a healthy 4-1 advantage in front of a 30,000 crowd in Zagreb before they completed their task with a goalless draw in a pressure-cooker atmosphere at the Karaiskakis Stadium in Piraeus, near Athens.

"Of course everyone had said that it would be difficult for us and Greece is a really good defensive team. But you know, we showed our defensive quality until the end. It was really

WITH LIVERPOOL I HONESTLY THINK THAT WE CAN BEAT ANYONE ON OUR DAY IF WE PERFORM

difficult. The atmosphere was really quite interesting there! They had a couple of chances but nothing too major. We really defended quite well – everyone from front to back.

"We managed because we are also in the peak of our best time now. When you see the ages of the players in the Croatia squad, I think it's a really good balance and the best time for everyone. We have a really good squad with young talents, then those players like me who are already seven or eight years there with the national team and then you have the even more experienced ones like Luka Modric, Ivan Rakitic, Vedran Corluka, Ivan Perisic, Mario Mandzukic. These are the players who you need at this moment so it's a good mix."

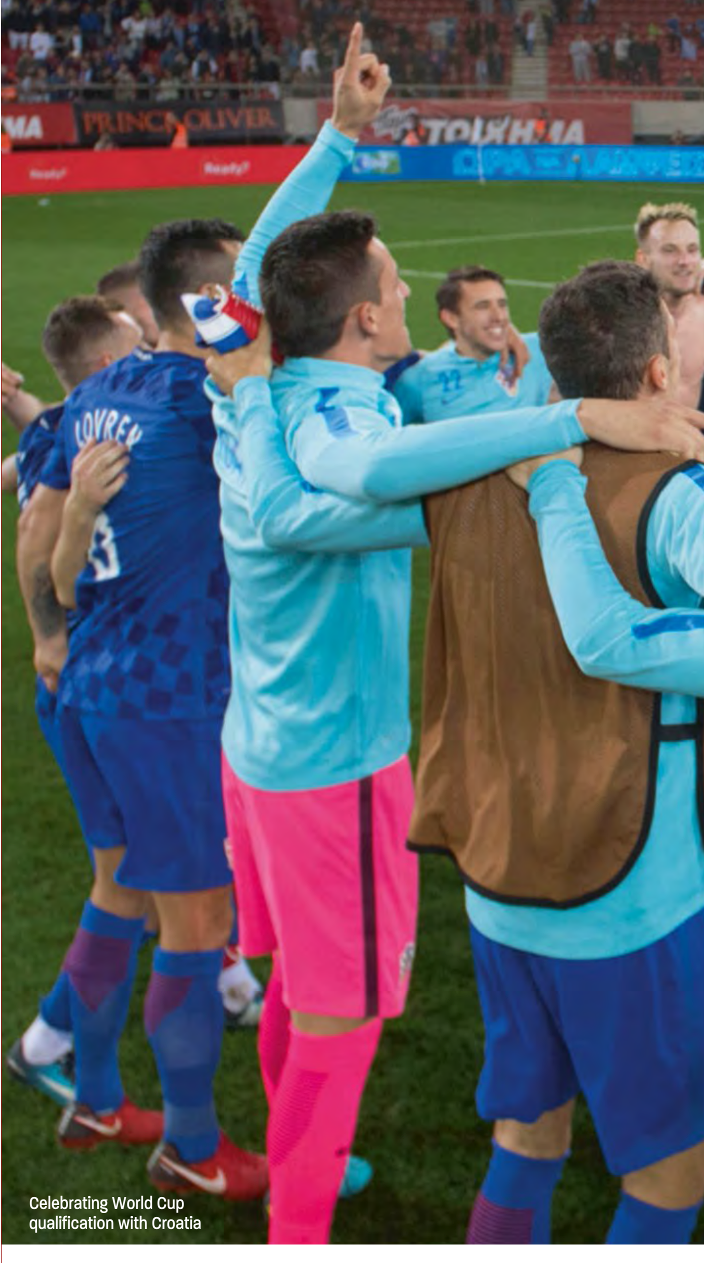
Lovren is very much part of that mix, having now made 35 senior appearances for his country since his debut in late 2009 under then-manager Slaven Bilic.

He missed Euro 2012, staged in Poland and Ukraine, through injury but was named in Niko Kovac's squad for




WESTERN UNION


A hug from the boss


Celebrating World Cup qualification with Croatia

the 2014 FIFA World Cup finals in Brazil and hopes to be selected for Russia later this year.

Following the play-off victory, Croatia went into December's draw for the finals where they were drawn against Argentina, Iceland and Nigeria. It's the latter country they'll face first, in Kaliningrad on Friday 16 June.

"It is one of the toughest groups we could have had," says Dejan.

"I think everyone agrees with that, you cannot lie. Argentina is one of the best attacking teams in the world especially when Lionel Messi is in the team and then you have Angel Di Maria, Gonzalo Higuain, Paulo Dybala and Sergio Aguero. I mean, come on!

"But this is the interesting thing because where you can compare teams, it's easy to say: 'Oh yes, on paper they are the favourites'. But of course out on the pitch it is different. I want to enjoy a big success with my national team because we have a really good, talented group with so many good players playing for strong clubs all around the world and we need to use that.

"Hopefully every player will finish his season well with their clubs and then we will see what we can achieve."

Before concentration turns fully to the summer's international tournament, he has plenty of unfinished business with Liverpool. While Lovren is looking forward to the challenges that the domestic calendar will bring between now and May, he is also relishing the opportunity to make further progress in the Champions League.

The Reds face coach Sergio Conceicao's FC Porto in the round of 16 and Dejan is convinced Liverpool have an excellent opportunity to progress to the quarter-finals of the competition.

Porto had yet to suffer defeat in Portugal's Primeira Liga at the time of going to press. But Liverpool's no6, who captained his team to that epic victory over previously unbeaten Premier League leaders Manchester City at Anfield last month, believes the Reds have what it takes to topple them over two legs.

"Listen, it depends on us. I honestly think that we can beat anyone on our day if we perform to our highest levels, giving the best of us. I don't see too many teams we shouldn't be confident against. Of course, there are maybe one or two teams who are really, really strong where you could say: 'Really, they would be the favourites'. But when I think about how we play and how we manage to defend with aggression and how we can score two or three goals in every game, then it's just that we need to keep our levels of concentration.

"With Porto, you would say that they don't have so many star players that you talk about, they are more like a team.

"They are the Portuguese champions, top of their league and they passed the group stage [as runners-up to Besiktas] so it will be interesting to see what will happen, but I'm confident that we can go through. We are there in the last 16 and everything is possible."

WITH CROATIA WE HAVE A GROUP OF PLAYERS WITH STRONG CLUBS ALL AROUND THE WORLD

The first leg takes place at the Estadio de Dragao on Tuesday 14 February with the return staged at Anfield on Tuesday 6 March.

Dejan continues: "Going through the group stage undefeated was a good achievement although I'm still a little bit disappointed from the Sevilla [away] game because we managed the game quite well, especially to go there and be three goals up. But it's maybe better for that to have happened at that moment rather

Croatia pic courtesy HNS / Croatian Football Federation

than later on in the season.

"It's a learning process for everyone. We know that we can't relax and that we still need to play football after going three-nil up, not sit back and wait. That just it doesn't make sense. Earlier in the season we had gone three up against Huddersfield in the Premier League and Maribor in the Champions League and then just continued in the same way and we know that's what we need to do."

Asked to outline his overall ambitions for 2018, the central defender stresses the need to finish in the top four again to ensure the Reds are competing in the Champions League once more in the autumn, as they bid to make playing in the tournament a regular part of the LFC calendar again.

"When you think about a new year, health is the main thing that you want for any new year. But on a professional level I definitely want to achieve more things with Liverpool.

"A big club like Liverpool needs to be in the Champions League season after season after season. This club still is a top club but I know that we can achieve much, much more."

Interview: William Hughes

Group dynamics: Reds in Russia



From a Liverpool perspective how's this for a World Cup game to look forward to: Mohamed Salah's Egypt against the Uruguay of Luis Suarez in Group A on Friday 15 June in Ekaterinburg.

On the same day Liverpool left-back Alberto Moreno could be in the Spain squad for their Group B opener against European champions Portugal.

Two days later Roberto Firmino's Brazil begin their Group E campaign against Switzerland in Rostov, and ten days later Bobby could find himself up against loaned-out Reds team-mates Marko Grujic and Lazar Markovic when they face Serbia.

Then on Tuesday 19 June there should be a World Cup finals debut for Liverpool striker Sadio Mane, in Senegal's Group H match with Poland.

On Wednesday 28 June it's goalie Simon Mignolet's Belgium against an England team which could feature any number of Jordan Henderson, Adam Lallana, Alex Oxlade-Chamberlain, Nathaniel Clyne, Joe Gomez and Dominic Solanke – not forgetting West Brom loan-signing Daniel Sturridge!


EXIT
2
AMSTEL



WIN OR BUST

This will be Liverpool's seventh appearance in the knockout stages of the modern-era Champions League – here's how we've fared on each occasion

FIRST TIME BAYER

2001/02 quarter-finals Bayer Leverkusen 1-0 (H) 2-4 (A)

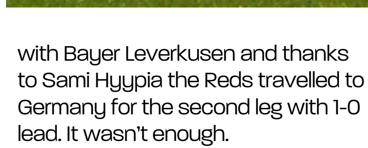
Gerard Houllier's Liverpool, UEFA Cup winners in 2001, embarked on the club's first modern-day Champions League campaign in 2001/02 when the format of the competition was very different.

After progressing through a group containing Borussia Dortmund, Boavista and Dynamo Kiev, the Reds also had a second group-stage to negotiate with Barcelona, AS Roma and Galatasaray standing between them and the quarter-finals.

A memorable 2-0 Anfield win against Roma, on the night Hou, Houllier led the Reds out again after recovering from life-saving heart surgery, set-up a last eight clash











with Bayer Leverkusen and thanks to Sami Hyypia the Reds travelled to Germany for the second leg with 1-0 lead. It wasn't enough.

Surprise goalscorer Abel Xavier cancelled out Michael Ballack's opener and Jari Litmanen put Liverpool ahead on away-goals after Ballack again and Dimitar Berbatov had scored. But an 84th-minute effort from Brazilian defender Lucio condemned the Reds to their first away European defeat since 1998 – a 15-match unbeaten run – with Leverkusen going on to reach the final after defeating Manchester United in the last four. Every cloud and all that.

EVERTON FC V LIVERPOOL FC

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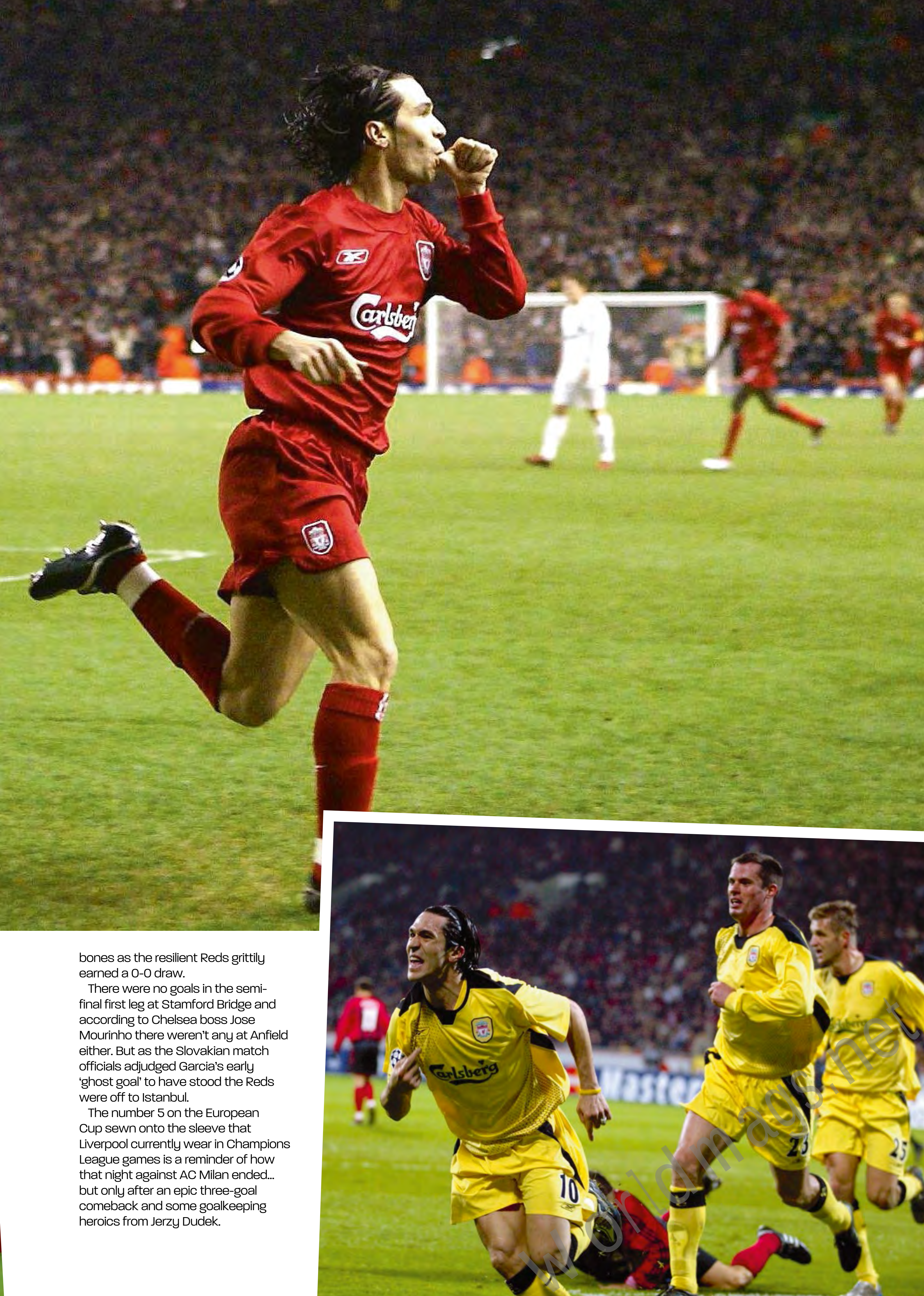
AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY

2004/05 last 16 Bayer Leverkusen 3-1 (H) 3-1 (A); quarter-finals Juventus 2-1 (H) 0-0 (A); semi-finals Chelsea 0-0 (A) 1-0 (H); final AC Milan 3-3 won 3-2 on pens (Istanbul)

Steven Gerrard's 'oh you beauty' goal against Olympiakos had ensured Rafa Benitez's Reds reached the last 16 with only minutes to spare and once again it was Bayer Leverkusen in opposition, but this time they were comfortably dismissed. Luis Garcia, John Arne Riise and Didi Hamann were on target in a 3-1 Anfield win before Garcia (2) and Milan Baros netted in the Bay Arena.

Next up were Juventus in the first meeting of the two clubs since the 1985 Heysel disaster. Before the first leg at Anfield a Kop mosaic reading *Memoria e Amacizia* (in memory and friendship) was unveiled before an on-pitch presentation. By half-time Sami Hyypia and Garcia – with a worldie – had put Liverpool 2-0 up.

Fabio Cannavaro pulled one back after a mistake by rookie Reds goalkeeper Scott Carson, to set up a tense second leg in Turin where Xabi Alonso and Djibril Cisse made earlier-than-expected returns from broken



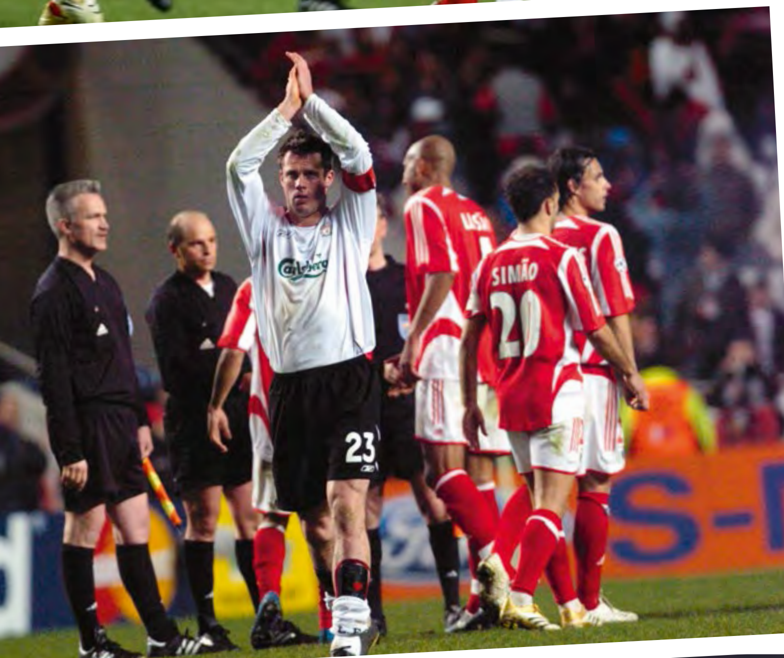
bones as the resilient Reds grittily earned a 0-0 draw.

There were no goals in the semi-final first leg at Stamford Bridge and according to Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho there weren't any at Anfield either. But as the Slovakian match officials adjudged Garcia's early 'ghost goal' to have stood the Reds were off to Istanbul.

The number 5 on the European Cup sewn onto the sleeve that Liverpool currently wear in Champions League games is a reminder of how that night against AC Milan ended... but only after an epic three-goal comeback and some goalkeeping heroics from Jerzy Dudek.









LUCKED OUT IN LISBON

2005/06 last 16 Benfica 0-1 (A) 0-2 (H)

Defending champions Liverpool had to qualify for the group stage after UEFA changed the rules on allowing previous winners to defend their title, meaning TNS (Wales), FBK Kaunas (Lithuania) and CSKA Sofia (Bulgaria) all had to be beaten with the season starting on 13 July!

Rafa's Reds cruised through the group stage unbeaten against Chelsea, Real Betis and Anderlecht and were favourites to overcome Ronald Koeman's Benfica (whom they'd eliminated three times in Europe before) in the last 16.

A 1-0 first-leg defeat in Estadio Da Luz, where Momo Sissoko suffered a serous eye injury, had the Kop pumped up for the return game. But Benfica scored twice through Simao and Fabrizio Miccoli to end Anfield dreams of winning Ol' Big Ears again.

ROAD TO ATHENS

2006/07 last 16 Barcelona 2-1 (A) 0-1 (H); quarter-finals PSV Eindhoven 3-0 (A) 1-0 (H); semi-finals Chelsea 0-1 (A) 1-0 (H) won 4-1 on pens; final AC Milan 1-2 (Athens)

Everyone thought Barcelona would beat Liverpool in Camp Nou, even more so when Deco scored first. But with debutant Alvaro Arbeloa effectively man-marking Lionel Messi, the Reds came back with Craig Bellamy and John Arne Riise – just days after their infamous golf-club incident at a training camp – both netting to secure a historic win.

Eidur Gudjohnsen gave Barca a 1-0 win at Anfield but Liverpool progressed on away-goals to meet PSV in the quarters with the Dutch side dismissed 3-0 in Holland (Steven Gerrard, Riise and Peter Crouch) and 1-0 on Merseyside (Crouch again).

Which meant, for about the 400th time in three seasons, Liverpool played Chelsea. This time a Joe Cole goal gave Mourinho's men a lead to defend at Anfield – something they failed to do with Daniel Agger's strike taking the semi-final to penalties.

Pepe Reina saved from Arjen Robben and Geremi while Bolo Zenden, Xabi Alonso, Steven Gerrard and Dirk Kuyt made no mistake to have Kopites booking flights to Athens for a final rematch with AC Milan. Just like most films, the sequel wasn't as good.



INTER STELLAR

2007/08 last 16 Inter Milan 2-0 (H) 1-0 (A); quarter-finals Arsenal 1-1 (A) 4-2 (H); semi-finals Chelsea 1-1 (H) 2-3 (A)

Way back in 1965 the Reds had been controversially knocked out of the club's first-ever European Cup campaign by Inter Milan, so a measure of revenge was gained by Rafa Benitez's side in the last 16 after a group-stage in which Porto (4-1), Marseille (4-0) and Besiktas (8-0) were on the receiving end of big scorelines after a sticky start.

Internazionale were downed in L4 by late strikes from Dirk Kuyt and Steven Gerrard before Fernando Torres struck the winner in the San Siro as the travelling Kop unfurled a banned reading *Vendetta Dello Shankly* (Shankly's revenge).

A first-ever Euro clash with Arsenal made for a compelling second leg at Anfield after Emmanuel Adebayor and Kuyt had exchanged goals at the Emirates. Abou Diaby (0-1), Sami Hyypia (1-1), Torres (2-1) and Adebayor (2-2) meant with four minutes to play the Gunners were going through on away-goals...until Kolo Toure conceded a penalty that Gerrard converted before Ryan Babel ran half the length of the pitch and slotted home to have Anfield bouncing.

Inevitably it was Chelsea again in the semi-final. This time Avram Grant's side got their revenge as a 90th-minute John Arne Riise own-goal earned them a 1-1 draw on Merseyside, with the Reds eventually going down 3-2 at Stamford Bridge in extra-time after Didier Drogba and Torres had both netted.



SEVENTEEN GOALS IN FOUR GAMES

2008/09 last 16 Real Madrid 1-0 (A) 4-0 (H); quarter-finals Chelsea 1-3 (H) 4-4 (A)

Liverpool 4 Real Madrid 0. One of the most famous scorelines in the entire history of LFC, and that was after Yossi Benayoun had headed the first-leg winner in the Reds' maiden visit to the Santiago Bernabeu.

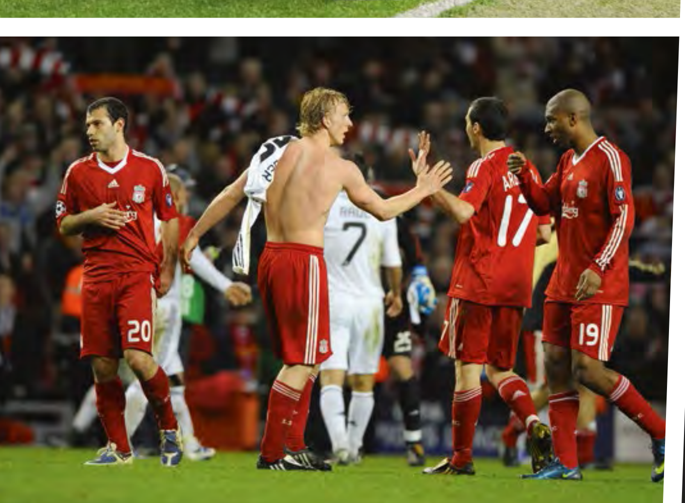
"It was madness in our changing-rooms and I had to take my mobile phone into the toilets to call my family," recalled the Israeli. "It was the only way I could make myself heard!"

Anfield was even louder as Fernando Torres, Steven Gerrard (2) and the prolific Andrea Dossena (he scored in a 4-1 win against Man United during the same week) blew the Spanish giants away on a magical night that remains Real's heaviest defeat to English opponents.

Quite what went wrong with the draw is unclear, but this time Liverpool had to play Chelsea in the quarter-finals instead of the last four with the law of averages deciding the Londoners should finally win at Anfield (LFC's only home reverse all that season), Branislav Ivanovic netting twice and Didier Drogba once after Torres' opener.

Tie over? Not if the Reds and their passionate following at Stamford Bridge could help it...and they so nearly pulled off the impossible. Liverpool stunned their hosts by going 2-0 up through Fabio Aurelio and Xabi Alonso, then went 3-2 down, then went 4-3 up (Lucas and Dirk Kuyt), before Chelsea's Frank Lampard finally made it 4-4.

It's been a nine-year wait for knockout Champions League football since then. And now it promises to be another rollercoaster ride...





Words: Chris McLoughlin

TEAM TALK

Assistant-coach Peter Krawietz on managing expectations, team-spirit, technology, the Champions League, Anfield magic and Liverpool FC's exciting future



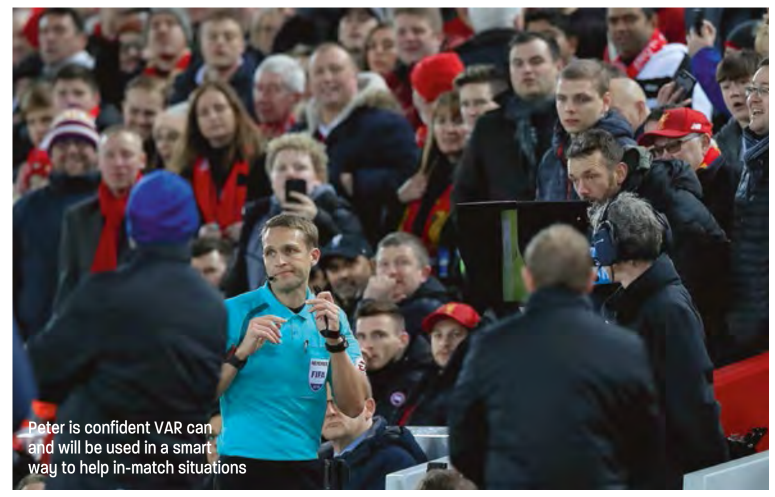


Peter, you have been here over two years – what are the biggest differences between working in the Premier League and the Bundesliga?
First of all it is the same sport with eleven players on each side and two goals on the field to go and attack! But in the Premier League you feel that there is a lot more money around and this, of course, has influence over everything. If you think about the game itself, English football is a little bit more intensive for different reasons.

The point I make with regards the money around the game here means the individual quality of the players is higher on average. This has influence on the games in terms of each team in the Premier League has players who are unbelievably dangerous and attackers who are unbelievably quick, and this is, for sure, a difference to the Bundesliga.

It also took a while to understand the way the rules are used by the refs. It is different and that is something we have had to learn, me especially because it means the decision-making it is a little bit different. At the moment the biggest difference between the Bundesliga and the Premier League is that in the Bundesliga they already use the VAR [Video Assistant Referee] in all the games. That's a big thing for me and it is an important point for the future of football in general.

How was your experience of VAR in the FA Cup tie against West Bromwich Albion?
I was completely relaxed because I have been a fan of VAR since it was


Peter is confident VAR can and will be used in a smart way to help in-match situations

first trialled five years ago. If there was a question 'What do you think of VAR?' then I would always say I absolutely wanted it.

I know it is a relatively new thing and it has to develop and I understand that it won't take all the mistakes and misunderstandings away because there are situations that you can always discuss.

You can ask of an incident: is it a penalty or not five or six times and you can ask two or three refs and they could have two or three opinions. But the important thing for me is the ability to take away the obvious things where you wonder if there was a possibility to look back at a certain situation. If you are coaching and there is a training match outside, then you can see and feel how quick it is – for instance, was that offside or was that not offside?

So you can see it is a big opportunity for the whole of football, for the refs and everybody to have the use of VAR and to use it in a smart way and then for sure it can help calm down certain situations.

For example, in 2014 at Borussia Dortmund we lost the German Cup final because somebody thought we had scored a goal. It was a goal but the linesman didn't give it [Mats Hummels' effort was ruled not to have crossed the line against Bayern Munich] and we lost the cup final.

That still hurts today, so to be able to take those errors away and to use this system and find certain ways to think about the rules; to make it clearer what is a foul, what is not a foul, what is a handball, what is not a handball; to make that step forward will help the game tremendously.

The frustration inside Anfield was the time it took to arrive at decisions and also fans not knowing what was happening. Yes, and all these things will improve. This system is new and to find the perfect way to deal with it is probably ten years off, but to help outcomes become better, it is a start. It will be a big change for sure but you always have to make a start.

VAR IS NEW AND THE PERFECT WAY TO USE IT COULD BE TEN YEARS OFF BUT WE'VE MADE A START

I can remember that when I started playing football it was still allowed to play the ball back to the goalkeeper and the keeper could pick it up. When they started to do it differently, everybody was saying 'Oh, what has happened?' and that we had to make a new rule because the player is avoiding doing something crazy by lying on the floor and heading the ball back and all this! It took two or three years and then everything was fine.

Today we can say that rule-change has speeded up the game and it has made a big improvement. I'm positive this will be the same with the video assistant referee.

The level of scrutiny is huge in the Premier League and particularly with regards to all things LFC...

Football is big entertainment and especially in England. Obviously English people like to discuss the game and everybody has his or her own opinion and uses whichever way to express it, either over social-media or radio or television. That adds to the interest but sometimes I think it misses a little bit of respect, especially for players.

Maybe there has been a player who has had a bad performance and then it seems like everybody is jumping on them, talking about this player, and forgetting completely that there is a person behind that player too. This is what I really don't like because in my



opinion it is really disrespectful.

From the entertainment point-of-view, of course, this debate is highly interesting and keeps these things going with discussions around the game in general.

But of course there has to be insider information too. You can't tell everybody what lies behind this decision or that decision, why we picked this player for this game and rested another one. You can't explain all this but people shouldn't think that we are completely stupid or crazy either. There are always a lot of reasons behind every decision and of course we try hard to reach the best for the club to be as successful as possible, respecting all the rules around a transfer or around the game.

We give everything to be as successful as possible and to represent this club as well as we can.

Has the departure of Pep Ljinders to become manager at NEC Nijmegen changed your role slightly?

There are a few things, of course, a few tasks to do that Pep had taken over but that's not the big point. The big point is that we lost a fantastic colleague and a great character.

On the other side of it, you always try to go forward, try to improve and try to find your own role and therefore we wish Pep all the best because it was always clear that he wanted to be a manager one day. He made the decision that as of 1 January it was right for him and the right opportunity to use at NEC, so we wish him all the best. Yes, we miss him in a personal way but we can deal with it.

The final day of the January transfer-window saw four young players moving on loan to Championship clubs to gain experience...

It is a good opportunity for the younger players, because with them it is always a question of how to proceed and how to develop.

We really like the boys, each single one, and we want to give them the opportunity to become the best football players that they can be and to use all their potential. That potential is massive otherwise they wouldn't have a contract with Liverpool FC. So to make the correct decision in each single situation you have to consider what is the best for the guy: to keep him here training with the first team and playing in the second team or to make the step to play real professional football and to settle as a first-team player.

Now there was a situation where we thought it could be the best idea to send them all out on loan and let them make the next steps. We will


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WE HAVE BEEN HERE OVER TWO YEARS AND WE ARE FULL OF ENERGY AND FULL OF HUNGER

get the players back in the summer and then we can have a look again at what their roles are because we have a lot of highly interesting and highly talented young players, such as Marko [Grujic], Harry [Wilson], Ovie [Ejaria] and Ryan [Kent].

The Champions League is back on the agenda – is the preparation different from a Premier League game?

Yes because when you play opponents that you don't see every week, of course you have to learn about these teams, that is clear.

The same point you always have to make and interpret is that the roles the players may have in international football are not necessarily the same as in their clubs – in many cases they play a little bit differently. These are all things to look at.

Our next opponents are FC Porto and a lot of people have said that on paper it looks like one of the better draws. But without going into details, we can say that we know that it will be a tough tie because FC Porto is a very big club in Portugal. They are a really competitive side, unbelievably strong physically, really smart tactically and of course they are very, very ambitious, particularly in the international competitions. So it won't be easy for us.

Maybe everybody else is expecting us to go through but the biggest mistake you can make as a responsible person in football – as a player or a coach – is to expect an easy game because that is the point where you have already lost before you start playing.

Yes, we know it will be difficult but we also know that it is possible to get through if we perform at a real high level and that is what we will try to do. It is good to play there first and hopefully we can use this advantage of playing the first game away, if it is an advantage, to try and score one, two or three goals and not concede too many. Then we will have the opportunity in the second game to use our home game, our atmosphere, our Anfield magic, to go through to the next round. But there is a long, hard way to go first.



You mention the Anfield magic – has your experience of the stadium on Euro nights met your expectations?
Of course we know there is a big tradition at this club with this trophy that we have won in former times, different times, already five times. We have the trophy on display at Melwood and this is something we have to work with, deal with in the right way and we have to use this.

We made this experience in Dortmund and the moment you are successful, it can help in terms of dealing with expectations in the right way and staying calm. Yes, you stay optimistic while not being over-confident.

It is a very, very important point to manage your own expectations and to manage the expectations around you, around the club with the supporters and to find the right way to create the right atmosphere that will make it possible to be successful.

In a previous interview you mentioned the motto TEAM – Together Everyone Achieves More – that's always a part of your ethos?
Yes of course. For me it is a law and a rule that will never change. We deal with it every day and trying to create this atmosphere is very, very important. I am completely convinced of this. There is only one way to do it and that is together.

We have spoken about the discussions around football. If we have conceded more goals than necessary then the public always discuss our need for defenders or that the last line hasn't got the necessary quality, but for me this is completely not the truth. If you really look at the games and analyse what happens then you will always see that nearly the whole team is involved in mistakes. At the end of the road are the defenders and the goalkeeper, but often mistakes happen well before it gets that far.

You can always discuss the defence but part of football is about defensive behaviour and defensive attitude and that is what we are talking about inside with our team. This is one example of working as a team and doing it together because we defend together, attack together, perform together and find the right positions together.

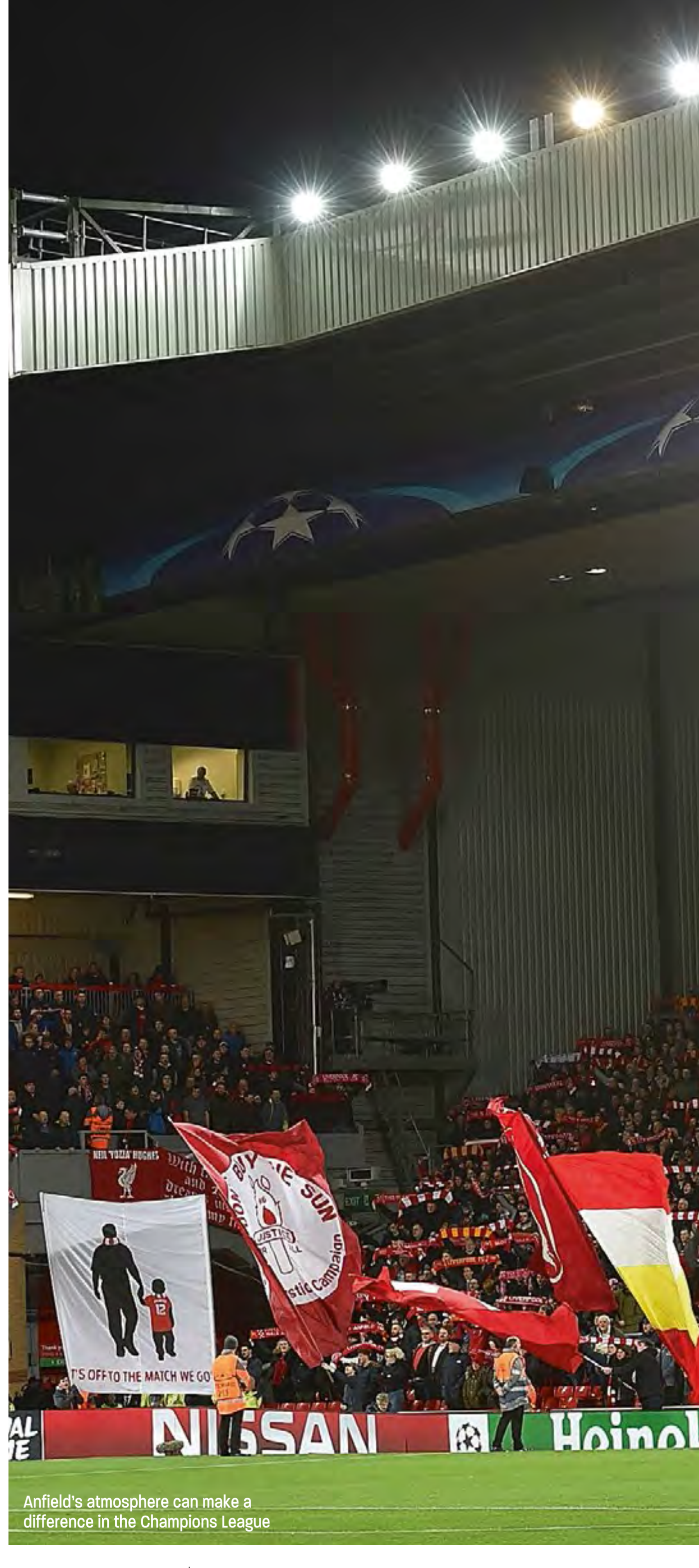
Each single position has to be very, very decisive. If you want to score or if you want to defend, everybody's involved in everything. Everybody is responsible for everything. This is our philosophy and that won't change.

Before you arrived much was made of Jürgen Klopp's *Gegenpressing* style – this seems to be second nature to the Liverpool squad now...
We want to keep moving forward and even this is a development and something we have to learn day by day, adapting to the situation we are in and trying to be pro-active in what we are doing, how we are performing, how we are wanting to play and what is important for our game to develop in order to make the next step.

For example, I think that I am today a better first-team coach than I was last month and next month I want to be better than I am today. So this is how I see it. We always try to observe, think and analyse and make the next step and try to create in the imagination the goals you want to reach and how we want to get there.

This is what makes this job for me and for my colleagues highly, highly interesting as well: always thinking about the next step, always trying to find new solutions with things that may have gone wrong in the last game and trying to do them better in the next one.

Of course we don't want to overload our players with information to make them too stretched, only talk about strategy because for a good performance you need your legs and a clear head. So we don't overload them but always ask them to be aware of what is going on around them and how we are going to develop our style of play.



Anfield's atmosphere can make a difference in the Champions League

Your enthusiasm for football is obvious and you are clearly excited by the future at Liverpool Football Club...
Absolutely. We have been here over two years but it has gone very quickly. My first impression is that it is still new, it's still exciting and there is still a lot of potential to develop. It still feels like the start, if you want.

Of course, after two years you know a lot more than at the start but you always try to learn, adapt, move forward and be the commander of your own cockpit. Now we know a lot more about English football, the Premier League, our opponents and, of course, our own club.

We always have a look to the future and there is a lot of work to do and a lot of space for improvement. But things have changed already and not everything has gone wrong!

We know the expectations, but the good thing is these expectations are perfect for us because we want to be as successful as possible, but to be successful over a long time needs time! In professional football, you often feel that you never have time and this can be a little bit of a problem.

As a coach you know that you always have to produce now and in the next game and in the next game, and this is what we try to do.

The Premier League is a hard competition and we have a lot of respect for our opponents and all the other clubs in the top five or six. We know that it is an incredibly tough competition, but we see what is possible and we have a lot of ideas for the future. We are full of energy and full of hunger.

We know the way we want to go and we have ideas as to how we want to do it.

Interview: William Hughes


Defend together, attack together, perform together

When Satu

Liverpool Ladies versus Bristol City in the FA WSL: pure football under pale lilac skies



Pics Nick Taylor / Silverhub



rday comes





Ladies manager
Scott Rogers





Captain Gemma Bonner
leads the Reds out





Young fans get behind
their team in the stands



New England Ladies boss
Phil Neville in attendance







Midfielder Caroline Weir on the attack









Players from Sister Club Frodsham Juniors attempt the half-time keepy-uppy challenge!

Reds forward Bethany England opens the scoring in style





LADIES NIGHT



Sub Ashley Hodson receives instructions



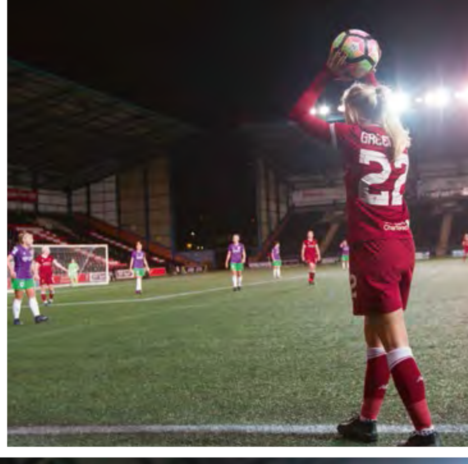
Bethany Engalnd fires home the second goal

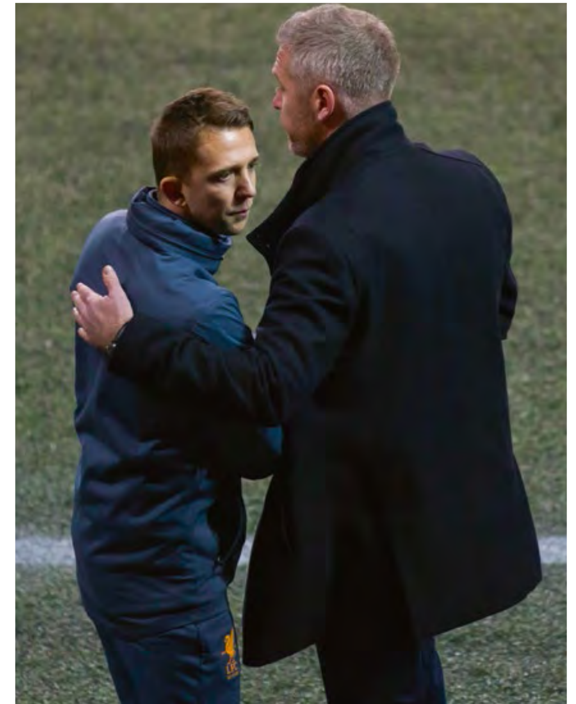
















Keeper Siobhan Chamberlain takes a selfie with young Reds



Neil Mellor

Porto won't be easy but we have to be confident

Expectations are high that Liverpool can progress to the quarter-finals of the Champions League but Porto cannot be underestimated. They aren't a giant like Real Madrid, Bayern Munich or PSG and are unlikely to be Champions League winners, but they are still a very dangerous opponent.

It is, however, a huge benefit to have the second leg at Anfield. We've seen over the years that the Anfield atmosphere can play a part in getting Liverpool over the line and that may be needed again as I expect the first leg in Portugal to be tight.

At the time of writing, Liverpool have scored in 15 of their 18 away games this season, so if Porto play an open game and have a go it will play into the hands of Jürgen Klopp's side because of the way they can be so destructive on the counter-attack. The pace of Mo Salah and Sadio Mane combined with the way Roberto Firmino comes short to receive the ball makes it a dangerous tactic to attack Liverpool. But, playing in their Estadio do Dragao home first, they'll want a first-leg advantage.

I must admit I'm not a big fan of watching Portuguese football. Porto did well to progress through their group but I'm not sure how challenging their domestic league truly is. They are top of their league and currently unbeaten but not dominating like Man City so it's very tight at the top there.

They will be helped in terms of the comparative scheduling – their league game before the second leg has been moved forward to the Friday night whereas Liverpool's has been put back to 5.30pm on the Saturday – so Klopp will be hoping his squad is relatively injury-free as he may need to look at freshening things up.

Porto scored three in Monaco, two in Leipzig and one in Istanbul during their Champions League group so it suggests to me that Liverpool will have to defend well in both legs of the tie. There will be periods in both games when the Reds must be strong as a defensive unit and I think Virgil van Dijk and Loris Karius will be crucial if that is to happen.

Van Dijk has been a huge help coming in. As a leader he has helped the whole defensive unit while it is also beneficial that the uncertainty surrounding the goalkeeping position is over with Karius appointed as Klopp's number one. I already think he has benefited from playing with Van Dijk in front of him, but the rest of the back-four isn't yet as settled as it could be.

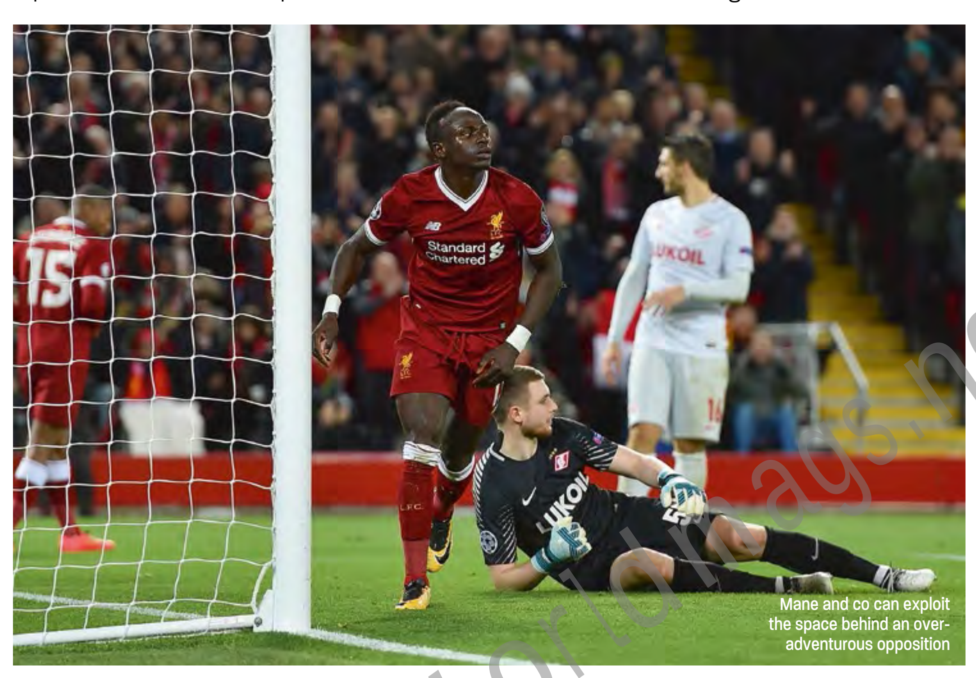
It remains unclear whether Joel Matip or Dejan Lovren will be Van Dijk's long-term central-defensive partner, Joe Gomez and Trent Alexander-Arnold have been rotated at right-back in Nathaniel Clyne's absence, while at left-back Andy Robertson surely did enough when Alberto Moreno was injured to be first-choice. Whoever he selects, I believe having a settled defensive unit is vital if Liverpool are to continue progressing in the Champions League.

Can the Reds go all the way to Kiev? You only have to look back to what we achieved in 2005 to see what is possible as nobody thought we'd get anywhere near Istanbul let alone win the final. But of the five English clubs remaining you have to view Man City as the strong favourites to go furthest. They've been the most consistent side, have the strongest squad and because of their points-margin lead in the Premier League have an opportunity to rest players ahead of European games.

The fact that the only English clubs to have won the Champions League since it was rebranded in 1992/93 are Liverpool, Manchester United and Chelsea shows how tough it is to win and I believe that is because the Premier League is so competitive. It is the most competitive league in the world and if you are not on it for any single game you get found out, as Liverpool did at Swansea and Manchester United did at Huddersfield.

At the start of the season I said progression from the Champions League group stage would constitute a success for Liverpool given that hasn't been achieved since 2008/09. Now I think there is a good opportunity to get past Porto, and with Liverpool having been brilliant at home this season the Portuguese side – nor anyone else – will fancy coming to Anfield and it will be great if we can add another famous European night to the amazing list we already have.

Beat Porto and who knows what will come next because, as we discovered in 2005, anything can happen in the Champions League knockout stages.



Mane and co can exploit the space behind an over-adventurous opposition



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liverpoolfc.com/ladies



Ladies

Ashley Hodson, here modelling the LFC Spring/Summer range, is one of 4 players in the current Ladies squad to have played 50 games for LLFC. Can you name the other three?
Answer p98

All the latest news as the club and its players strive to make a difference on and off the pitch





AND THE WINNERS ARE...

LFC Players' Awards returns to Anfield this May with 125 reasons to celebrate!



The Ladies team line-up at last year's event



Liverpool Football Club will host the fifth annual Players' Awards at Anfield home on Thursday 10 May 2018– and it will be an extra-special occasion themed around the club's 125th anniversary.

The evening will look back on the 2017/18 campaign and honour the achievements of the first team, Academy and Liverpool Ladies, as well as recognising former players and loyal LFC supporters. Awards include: Player of the Season, First Team Players' Player of the Season, Liverpool Ladies FC Player of the Season, Young Player of the Season (Under 23) and Goal of the Season. Fans will once again be able to have their say by casting their votes in a number of categories.

As in previous years the Awards will be raising funds for the club's official charity. A number of exclusive experiences and sporting memorabilia will be up for grabs prior to the event via an online auction, as well as on the night through both a live auction and a silent auction. Funds raised will support LFC Foundation programmes and partnerships which help create life-changing opportunities for children and young people.

Fans can follow the event with extensive live coverage throughout the evening on the club's official website and social-media channels, with an extended highlights show to follow on LFCTV the next day. Visit **liverpoolfc.com/playersawards** for ticket details, hospitality and more information.

Last year Sadio Mane was



Katie Zelem, Ashley Hodson and Caroline Weir last year

recognised at the double as Liverpool's star performer of 2016/17 by both fans and team-mates. Among the other winners were Emre Can, whose spectacular overhead-kick against Watford secured the Goal of the Season prize, and Trent Alexander-Arnold, named Young Player of the Season.

Sophie Ingle took the honour of Liverpool Ladies' Player of the Season, while Ben Woodburn's breakthrough campaign, in which the forward became the club's youngest-ever goalscorer, was acknowledged by the Academy with their Player of the Season award.

Staff and supporters were recognised, too, and there were special presentations to Reds legend Roger Hunt, the European Cup-winning team of 1977 and Lucas Leiva for his decade of service to the club.



The boss with LFC's 2016/17 Player of the Year

GEORGE'S WINNING RUN

Why one young star's sponsored runs have been honoured by LFC Foundation

George with younger brother James and family

There was a presentation for a very special youngster at Anfield recently, when George Mathias received a Points of Light award from LFC Foundation on behalf of the Prime Minister.

The young Reds fan set up Run With George, a fundraising campaign in aid of Alder Hey, after his younger brother James received life-saving treatment at the hospital. Alongside sports figures like Steven Gerrard and Jamie Carragher and other celebrities, George embarked on a series of one-mile sponsored runs that have raised a remarkable £55,000 and counting.

Andrea Cooper, head of LFC Foundation, presented the eleven-year-old with a letter from Theresa May, along with an LFC shirt, at Anfield Sports & Community Centre where George held his first run in 2017.

George said: "I really enjoy raising money and trying to inspire other people to take up running, so to receive this award is more than I could have dreamt of. I would like to say thank you to the Prime Minister for choosing me for this award – she is always welcome to join me on a run!"

The Points of Light award recognises outstanding volunteers making a change in their community, and each day someone, somewhere in the country is selected for their extraordinary achievements.

Liverpool FC is passionate about its local community and its official charity LFC Foundation delivers a wide range of programmes and partnerships to create life-changing opportunities for children and young people. For more please visit **foundation.liverpoolfc.com.**



With the Foundation's Andrea Cooper




L.F.C.

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WHAT A MOVE!

First-teamers Joel and Dom help get local youngsters active with Super Movers



The lads throw some shapes with Ben and Naomi







Reds stars Joel Matip and Dominic Solanke recently joined local schoolchildren and CBBC favourites Ben Shires and Naomi Wilkinson at Anfield to take part in a BBC Super Movers Live Lesson.

It was a fun, active maths session for seven to nine-year-olds, showcasing Super Movers content and energising classrooms across the UK. Joel and Dom also showed off their own moves as well as giving some advice on how to get active.

The BBC and the Premier League launched Super Movers to help primary school teachers inspire children to become more active throughout their school day and enhance their learning. It will bring stars from the worlds of football, music and television together in fun, free and easy-to-follow educational videos which will capture children's imaginations and help teachers to get them moving throughout the day with a series of routines and activities.

Joel said: "Super Movers is a great idea. It not only gets children to move but learn at the same time. The kids today certainly showed me a move or two!"

Along with the Premier League and other football clubs, the LFC Foundation will support Super Movers through their work in local schools, helping teachers use special videos in classrooms and encouraging an active ethos.

Andrea Cooper, head of the Foundation, calls it "a fantastic campaign that promotes physical activity, something we are very passionate about because we know the positive effects that being active can have on children's attainment, behaviour, concentration, self-esteem and health."







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WINTER WARMERS

Liverpool FC Academy starlets follow in first-team footsteps by helping at local foodbank


Jordan, Mich'el and Nat at the Foodbank









Three LFC Academy players visited the North Liverpool Foodbank recently to lend a hand to volunteers.

Reds youngsters Nat Phillips, Jordan Williams and Mich'el Parker got stuck in with a variety of tasks at the Clubmoor centre – including helping to sort, weigh and pack food parcels – before learning about the vital work North Liverpool Foodbank does within the Anfield community.

Under-23s defender Nat said: "Visiting has definitely been an eye-opener and it was a privilege for us to come here and give our support. It has been nice to see the volunteers and the selfless work they are doing to help other people."

Previously defender Ragnar Klavan recently became the latest first-teamer to make a donation to the Foodbank. The Estonian international handed over a number of essential items to be made into three-day emergency food-parcels for local residents in need, before chatting to volunteers.

Food poverty and food education is one of the focus areas of LFC's Red Neighbours programme, working alongside the Fans Supporting Foodbanks initiative. Collections take place at every home game at Anfield: supporters can drop off any non-perishable food donations and toiletries at the collection points open three hours before kick-off and located on Anfield Road, next to the Family Park, and inside the Anfield superstore.

So far this season matchday donations have totalled over 4,000kg, enough for approximately 1, 270 families in need in North Liverpool.

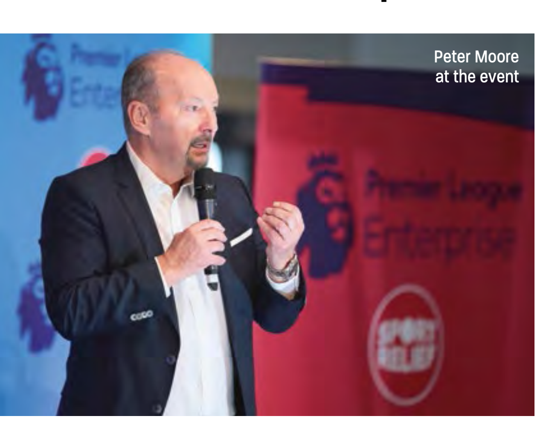
Liverpool FC works with local residents, community groups and schools in and around the Anfield area as part of its Red Neighbours programme, focusing on supporting some of the key issues in Anfield including: food poverty and education, the elderly, getting the community physically-active and creating memorable experiences for young people.




Ragnar Klavan chats with a volunteer

FIVE MIGHTY REDS!

Foundation team represents LFC at Premier League Enterprise Challenge play-offs


Peter Moore at the event

A team of young participants representing LFC Foundation has taken part in the Premier League Enterprise Challenge Play-Off held at Anfield.

The youngsters, from Woodchurch High School on the Wirral, competed against teams representing Burnley FC, Everton FC, Manchester United FC and Newcastle FC in the first of six play-offs held at stadiums across the country.

The Premier League Enterprise, an annual nationwide competition supported by Sport Relief, uses the backdrop of professional football clubs to deliver enterprise education to inspire young people and increase their aspirations and skills.

Year 9 and 10 students are set a football business-related task – decided by Premier League Executive Chairman Richard Scudamore – with this year's youngsters asked to create initiatives to encourage diversity and improve fans' experience on a matchday.




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QUIZ ANSWERS: LIVERPOOL p9: After the Tottenham Hotspur home game in the Premier League on 4 February, Liverpool had scored 271 goals during Jürgen Klopp's spell as manager so far. **FOOTBALL p19:** Prior to this season, Roberto Firmino's best goals tally for Liverpool was the 12 he scored in the last campaign, 2016/17. **CLUB p85:** Along with Ashley Hodson, the other members of the current Liverpool Ladies squad to have played 50 or more games for the club are captain Gemma Bonner, defender Martha Harris and midfielder Kate Longhurst.


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